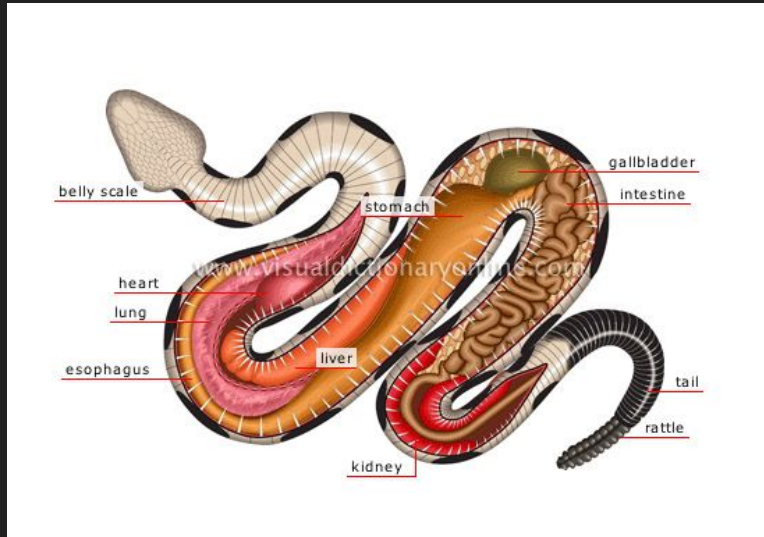


Evolution of the Green Anaconda

By Howard Fry

What are Snakes?

- Have been around for millions of years
- Ectothermic
- Two main types
 - Venomous
 - Vipers
 - Non-venomous
 - Boas
 - Pythons
- Specially adapted/simple bodies



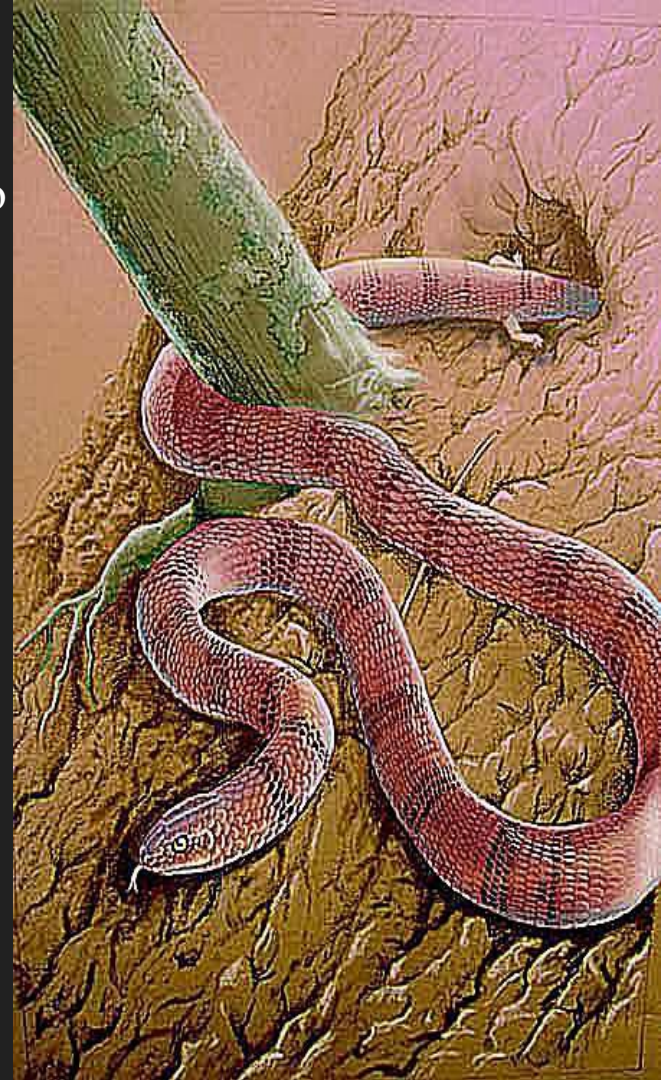
Pachyrhachis - 130-120 million years ago

- Small, a few feet long and a few pounds
- Still had small hind legs
 - Vestigial Structure
- Most fossils found in Middle East
- Marine Snake
- Transitional Species



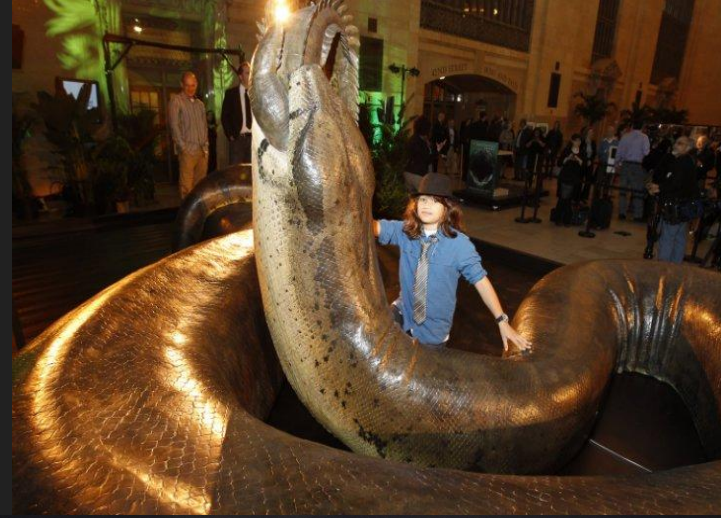
Najash Rionegrina - 90 Million Years Ago

- Almost identical to pachyrhachis
- Didn't live in water
- Woodlands of South America
- Also had hind limbs
- Only 'stunt leg' to be found out of Middle East



Titanoboa (*cerrejonensis*) – 50-60 Million Years Ago

- Largest snake species, ever
- Weighed up to 1 tonne
- Grew to about 45 ft long
- Northern South America (Columbia)
- Warm, humid climate
- Mainly piscivorous
- Similar to modern eunectes



Green Anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*)

- Heaviest but not the longest snake
- Up to 150lbs
- Length of up to 20ft
- “Water boa”
- Most of South America
- Heat and humidity of rainforests
- Large prey, but unable to eat adult humans



Modern relatives of the Green Anaconda

- Yellow Anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*)
 - Much smaller
 - Different colorations
- De Schauensees Anakonda (*Eunectes deschauenseei*)
 - Smaller than Green Anaconda
 - Similar coloration
 - Endangered
- Bolivian Anaconda (*Eunectes beniensis*)
 - Endangered
 - Smaller
 - Mix of both colorations



Sources

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Thank You for Listening!