

Asp Viper

Latin name : *Vipera aspis*

Size : up to 70cm

Lifespan : 12 months

There are 4 species of viper in France, the most common in the south being the asp viper. You can tell a viper from a snake by 3 main criteria: a vertical pupil, small scales versus large scales on the head and a short, broad tail.



Adders bite extremely rarely and only when threatened, usually when they are about to be trampled or cornered. These situations are very rare because they hide before they are in a risky situation. If they do bite, they are unlikely to inject their venom, which they use for food. The viper knows that it is not going to eat you, so it will not waste its venom. In this case, all you can do is call for help and, while you wait, lie down and calm down so as not to increase your heart rate. Apart from susceptible individuals, the main risk is stomach upset.