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## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Beginning in 1977, the Vertebrate Pests Committee of the Standing Committee of Agriculture (Australia) has been working to develop guidelines for uniform legislation by all Australian States and Territories, to provide adequate control over the introduction, movement and keeping of vertebrate species not indigenous to Australia. The proposed legislation's objective is to control animal species which are actually or potentially a threat to agriculture, the natural environment or public safety.

As part of these endeavours, lists of species in Australia have been developed and efforts are now being directed towards a rational process of risks assessment. To assist in this process and provide important background data for the reclassification of reptile and amphibian species proposed for importation into Australia, information is requested on the establishment, anywhere in the world, of any species of snake in the wild outside its natural range.

In particular, details are sought on the species concerned, where and when it/they became established, and how the establishment arose (escape, release, etc). Particulars on the threat posed and steps taken to minimise or halt the damage, would also be of great assistance. Copies of any published accounts of these establishments would be appreciated.

Please send to:  
Chris B. Banks, Curator of Reptiles,  
Royal Melbourne Zoo  
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