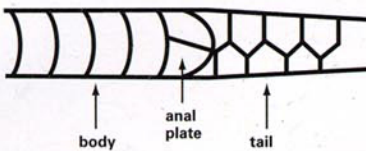
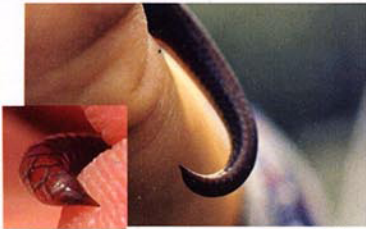


Identification Key

(only applicable for southwestern BC)

Features of Sharp-tailed Snakes



SIZE Is the snake less than 35 cm (1 ft) long? **NO**

YES

STRIPING Does the snake lack a narrow stripe along mid-back? **NO**

Note: Some garter snakes are uniform in colour but often retain a faint stripe along head and neck

YES

UNDERSIDE Does the underside have distinct black and white barring? Note: Some garter snakes have indistinct barring (as in photo on right). **NO**

YES

TAIL Is the tail short and does it end in a thorn-like spike? **NO**

Note: The tail of snakes has two rows of scales on the underside. The tail of garter snakes is long and tapering.

YES

BODY SCALES Are the individual body scales smooth (with no keel)? **NO**

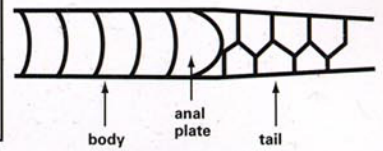
Note: The scales of garter snakes are keeled and appear rough.

YES

ANAL PLATE Is the anal plate divided into two? Note: The anal plate is the last scale before the vent or anus, on the underside of the snake. In garter snakes, this scale is undivided. **NO**

YES

Features of Garter Snakes



What you saw was most likely a **Garter Snake**.

What you saw was most likely a **Sharp-tailed Snake**.

Please take a photo, write down the date, time and other details of your observation, and report it to the **Sharp-tailed Snake Recovery Team**. (email: Sharp-tailedSnake@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca).