

Coral Snake or Scarlet King Snake: What's the Difference?

Coral snakes and scarlet king snakes are similar in many ways. Both have smooth, polished scales and small heads. They both feed on lizards, frogs, rodents, and other snakes. Neither snake is aggressive. Although both types of snakes are red, black, and yellow, they have different patterns. It is the pattern of the colors that makes all the difference.

The coral snake's pattern is black, yellow, red, yellow, with narrow bands of yellow. However, the scarlet king snake's pattern is black, yellow, black, red. Coral snakes are poisonous. They use their venom to kill prey. Scarlet king snakes, on the other hand, are not poisonous. They constrict, or squeeze, their prey.

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