

Reptile's terminology

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Source term	Definition	Sesotho
Amphibian	An ectothermic vertebrate which lives a double life, metamorphosing from a larval stage to the adult stage. Frogs, toads, salamanders	... boamfibiya/ se phela metsing le lefatsheng
Autotomy	The ability of some lizards to break off their tail to distract predators.	Boipumo
Carapace	The top portion of a turtle's shell.	Kgaketla mokokotlo
Carnivorous	Meat eating.	... jang nama
Constriction	A method used by snakes to kill their prey by squeezing until the victim can no longer breathe.	Tlenya/penya
Ectothermic	A trait in which animals must depend on an external source of heat (or cold) for maintenance of their body temperature.	Diyaletempereitjha
Gill	An organ used to obtain oxygen from the water.	Sehemisi/ sephefomodise/ Gile
Gland	Gland a cell or group of cells through which substances are secreted or excreted from the body.	Tshwelesa
Herbivorous (browsers)	Plant eating	...jang dimela
Herbivorous (grasers)	Grass eating	...jang bojwang
Hibernation	A period of dormancy usually passed during the winter.	Boipato mariha
Metamorphosis	A change in the form or structure of an animal occurring after birth or hatching.	Methamofosese
Omnivorous	Eats both meat and plant material.	...jang nama le dimela
Oviparous	The ability to lay eggs that develop and hatch outside the female's body.	... behelang
Permeable	Allowing both moisture and gases to pass through.	tophothela /kenella/ dumella
Plastron	The bottom portion of a turtle's shell.	kgaketla sefuba

Reptile	An ectothermic air-breathing vertebrate having scales.	Sehahabi
Venom	Toxin used by some snakes and lizards to paralyze or kill prey	Tjhefu ya dihahabi
Viviparous	The ability to give live birth Tswalang
Fangs	long sharp teeth, hollow or grooved teeth of a venomous snake	Meno a dikoti
Predator	an animal that primarily gets food by killing and consuming other animals	Sebata
Prey	an animal taken by a predator as food	Nyamatsane
Terrestrial	an organism that is growing or living on land	Tsa lefatsheng/ -lebatoweng
Black mamba	Identified by a black colour in the mouth. Very aggressive behaviour	Mamba/ -Mokwepa o motsho
Green Mamba	Is covered in grey to green gunmetal scales, which are smooth, with a pale-green underbelly.	Mamba/ -Mokwepa o motala
Boomslang	Has large eyes with round pupils	Noha ya sefate
Brown house snake	Distinguished by its uniform brown-reddish scales that turn darker as it gets older. It also has two yellow streaks	Noha ya ka tlung
Flat necked chameleon	The flap-neck chameleon is characterised by its large continuous crest containing small white, triangular tubercles	Lempetje le molala o sephara
Puff Adder	Is a large snake with yellow-brown to light brown colour adorned with black pale edged chevrons	Marabe
Spotted Sandveld Lizard	Male and female spotted sandveld lizards measure 80 to 90 mm in length. This large lizard has a spotted back and an orange-brown tail.	Mokgodutswane o maroboko

Striped skink	The striped skink is medium sized, both males and females measuring 60 to 90 mm. Their body colour differs between subspecies	Mokgodutswane o metsero
Estivation	Similar to hibernation, some herptiles will bury themselves and remain dormant when the climate is too dry and/or hot for comfort.	Boipato hlabula
Diurnal	Active during the day.	...tsa motshehare
Hybrid	A crossbred animal. The offspring of two different species.	Mofutapedi
Insectivore	Insect eater, subsists on insects	...jang dikokonyana
Pectines	Comb like sensory structures visible on the ventral surface of scorpions.	Meno
Tetrapod	These are vertebrate (having a backbone or spinal column) animals that have four limbs. including amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. The word tetrapod is derived from the Greek term "tetrapode", which is equivalent to the Latin term "quadruped".	...tse maoto mane
Thorax	A division of an animal's body that lies between the head and the abdomen, like the breastplate	Peta
Vivarium	An enclosure or container for keeping reptiles and amphibians.	Hoko
Poikilothermal	Term used for variable temperature cold-blooded animal	Sealethemphereitjha
Arboreal	Lives in trees or bushes	...tsa difateng/ ditlhahlaneng
Centipedes	Centipedes are land dwelling invertebrates that comprise the class, Chilopoda	Khontiphiti

Millipede	Millipedes differ from Centipedes in body shape, being more cylindrical rather than flattened. Also, while centipedes have only a single pair of legs attached to the sides of each body segment, millipedes generally have 2 legs per segment and they are attached near the ventral midline.	lefokolodi
Twig snake	Slender, fast-moving tree snake about 1,3m long; can stay motionless for long periods of time; well camouflaged and very poisonous	Mofuta wa noha ya sefateng
Rinkhals	a characteristic of the species is the belly is dark with one or two light-coloured crossbands on the throat	Masumu
Aspidelaps	Aspidelaps are commonly called shield-nosed cobras, African coral snakes or coral cobras after their cobra hoods and enlarged rostral (nose) scales.	
Jackson's chameleon	Jackson's chameleons are sometimes called three-horned chameleons because males possess three brown horns: one on the nose (the rostral horn) and one above each superior orbital ridge above the eyes (preocular horns), somewhat reminiscent of the ceratopsid dinosaur genus	Lempetje le manaka a mararo
Charina	Charina is a genus of nonvenomous boas, commonly known as rubber boas,	Tjharina
Python	A constrictor with a heat-sensitive organ on its head, used to find prey. The reticulated python, which	Tlhwere

	grows up to 10 metres (33 feet) long, is the longest snake in the world.	
Rattlesnake	A Viper with a rattle in its tail. When agitated, it vibrates its tail to make a warning sound. Most species have diamond-patterned markings and all give birth to live young.	Letjhitjhirisi
Viper	A venomous snake with long, hollow fangs that fold back inside its mouth until it strikes	Vaepha
Wall lizard	A slim body, long tail and large scales on its head and belly.	Mokgodutswane wa lebota
Rainbow skink	They have small transparent windows in each lower eyelid	Mokgodutswane o mookodi
Rhombic egg eater	The middle of its body is marked by series of dark square like patches, bordered by narrow dark bars	Seja mahe
Snouted Cobra	Yellow in colour on their scales and banded phase which has a banded patterns on their scales	Moswa o mafamo
Spotted bush snake	It is a thin snake with a long tail and prominent, flat head that is green or blue- green in colour	Noha e tala e maroboko
Giant plated Lizard	Has a flat head and body the adults display a dark brown colour, juvenile are black have a distinct series of bright yellow spots on their back	Mokgodutswane o sephara
Leopard Tortoise	It has a hooked beak, which is unicuspid and often serrated and an absent nuchal	Kgodunkwe
Serrated hinged terrapin	Its carapace and bridge is entirely black in colour and the skin of the limbs and neck is pale olive gre. The plastron is yellow in the middle, bordered by a black angular pattern	Kgudumetsi e ntsho

Wahlberg's velvet Gecko	They are a light dark greyish brown colour on their neck, marked by dark and light cross line and often of blotches along the spine	mokgodutswane /Tjhetjheike
African rock python	Non venomous it subdues its pray via constriction, can be recognized by its large triangular shaped head and blotchy chestnut brown to olive markings	Tlhware ya Thabang