



dangerous creatures

estuarine crocodile

Distribution

Tropical, estuarine and coastal marine waters of Africa, Asia, America, Indo-Pacific and Australia. Estuarine crocodiles inhabit the northern parts of Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland (north of Tropic of Capricorn). They may venture up to 100km inland from the coast.

Size and appearance

Crocodiles have short muscular limbs and a heavy muscular body covered with scales. Individuals can reach up to 6.7m in length and weigh more than 1200kg, though there have been reports of larger animals. Crocodiles use their long powerful tail to propel themselves through the water, the raised scales along the tail (scutes) aid in swimming efficiency.

Symptoms and signs

Crocodile attack injuries can result in massive tissue damage, severe blood loss and in severe cases death. Patients may go into shock, the signs and symptoms of shock include an erratic or fast pulse, dizziness, incoherence or mental confusion, lethargy leading to unconsciousness.

First aid

1. Return the patient to shore as quickly and safely as possible.
2. Call 000.
3. Apply immediate first aid (basic life support/control bleeding).
4. Seek medical attention.

How to avoid them

- Obey crocodile warning signs – they are there for your safety and protection.
- Never swim in water where crocodiles may live, even if there is no warning sign present.
- When fishing, always stand a few metres back from the water's edge and never stand on logs or branches overhanging the water.
- Never clean fish or discard fish scraps near the water's edge or at boat ramps.
- Stay well back from any crocodile slide marks. Crocodiles may still be close by and may approach people and boats.
- Never dangle your arms or legs over the side of a boat. If you fall out of a boat, get out of the water as quickly as possible.
- Never provoke, harass or interfere with crocodiles, even small ones.
- Never feed crocodiles – it is illegal and dangerous.



Crocodylus porosus



Distribution in Australian waters



Size relative to human



For additional information visit www.stingstabstrike.com



FACT SHEET #7

dangerous creatures

estuarine crocodile (continued)

How to avoid them (continued)

- Camp at least 2m above the high water mark and at least 50m from the water's edge. Avoid places where native animals and domestic stock drink.
- Never leave food and fish scraps at your campsite. Always check that previous campers have left no food scraps.

Did you know?

- The estuarine crocodile, *Crocodylus porosus*, is listed as a 'vulnerable' species in Queensland, placing it at risk of extinction.
- The estuarine crocodile is the largest living reptile in the world.
- Crocodiles have a flap of skin at the back of the throat that can close off the back of the mouth, allowing them to open their mouth underwater.



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