

**Slow-worm (blind-worm or deaf-adder) anguis fragilis family: Anguidae :
DF 118 powerful non-narcotic analgesic.**

Contributors

Duncan, Flockhart & Co.

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SLOW-WORM

(Blind-Worm or Deaf-Adder)

Anguis fragilis

Family: ANGUIDAE

Commonly mistaken for a snake because of its legless appearance, the Slow-Worm is in fact a lizard; under the close, polished, uniform scaly covering are vestiges of limbs which have been discarded in the long evolutionary history of the species. A fully-grown male specimen may measure 12-14 inches; a fully-grown female 15-16 inches. Its head is small and short and not as broad as the body. The tail, which is easily broken off—hence its Latin name—is much longer than the head and body and tapers gradually to a sharp point. The Slow-Worm is much more ready to part with its tail when trapped than either of the other British Lizards.

An interesting adult colour variety occurs, where blue spots and markings are distributed along the back.

The Slow-Worm is usually found in woods, hedgerows and waste land.

Its food is mainly slugs and earthworms, but it will take spiders and the soft-bodied larvae of insects.

Slow-Worms hibernate from mid October to early March under heaps of leaves, in rodent holes or under heather roots in soft sand, and mate in late April. The young—six to twelve in number—are born between the middle of August and late September.

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