

# *VIPERA BERUS*



Abb. 1: Spaans, P.,(2006): ViperaBerusMale  
(<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:ViperaBerusMale.JPG>; downloaded 22.11.2013)

**Hello, I'm the little viper!**

May I invite you to take a tour through my territory?

My territory is the edge of the forest. I like it when there are plenty of bushes for protection. Coniferous trees with branches which reach to the ground are ideal, because it is easy to hide there. But most of all I like it when there is a variety of tall plants and open areas with lots of hiding places, because I can really let off steam then. I like to sunbathe on old trees that have fallen down. Here, I can also quickly hide away from my enemies. We lay our eggs in open areas on the edge of the forest where there is enough warm sun to hatch them.

I have been to the city once, but I did not like it at all. It is so loud and dirty and there are big machines and cars driving around everywhere. So I went quickly back home. You will not find food in the city because hunting is most successful in open areas where you can hide among the many small pieces of wood lying around.

Lately it is no longer easy to find food here in my home area. It is getting smaller and huge machines are taking over the open areas and driving out all the animals. Also, there are more people running back and forth across my living area. Almost all my friends have already moved on to look for a new home. But maybe some of you have an idea how you can help me, so that I do not have to move away from my home?