**Brazilian Lancehead**

**Native to:** Native to Northern South America

**Predators:**  Birds, Other Snakes, Large Mammals, Big Fish

**Food:**  small mammals and birds

**Facts:**.

* They can grow between 2 to 3.5 feet in length.
* They live most of their lives in the lowland wet forests or closer to Andes Mountains.
* They get their name because when Spanish settlers came to South America their arrow like head shape reminded them of their lances used in battle.
* They are active mostly at night. During the day they sit and camouflage with the forest floor or the brush around them. They can stay inactive in one area for hours at a time.
* They have a strong hemotoxic venom. Their venom effects blood vessels causing excessive bleeding and clotting of blood cells in the human body.
* They produce large amounts of their venom for their body size because they also use their venom as a defensive means of keep other large predators at bay.
* Most bites on humans occur in coffee fields. The snakes will sit there waiting for rodents in the fields and humans working there don’t see them before it is too late for them.
* They are considered of Least Concern in the wild. But a major concern for this species is deforestation of rainforests of South America.

**Defense Mechanism**

Camo, Venom

**Reproduction:** Females give birth to live young at varying points throughout the year they can carry up to 60 young inside of them.

**Lifespan:** Can live for about 15 to 20 yrs

**Handling Tips:**

Our Lancehead Viper should never be handled by anyone who does not have the training and experience to do so. He will be packed in a glass viewing tank for programming purposes.