

Eine rötliche Kreuzotter (*Vipera berus berus*) mit kräftigem Zickzackband

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A reddish adder (*Vipera berus berus*) with a prominent zig-zag band

At the 24th of September 2001 a female reddish adder which had just been run over by a car was found at the edge of a peat bog in the lowland of Northwest Germany. The animal with a total length of 48,5 cm had a reddish-brown back side with a prominent blackish-brown zig-zag band and a glowing reddish underside, especially in the front part of the body. This so-called »Kupferotter« (copper adder) is a rare variety of *Viper berus* and only a few figures of it can be found in the literature. The other described or depicted specimens of this variety have a rather uniform reddish back colour, lacking a clear zig-zag band, and no information on the colour of the underside is available.

Key words: Reptilia, Serpentes, Viperidae, *Vipera berus*, reddish variety, Germany.