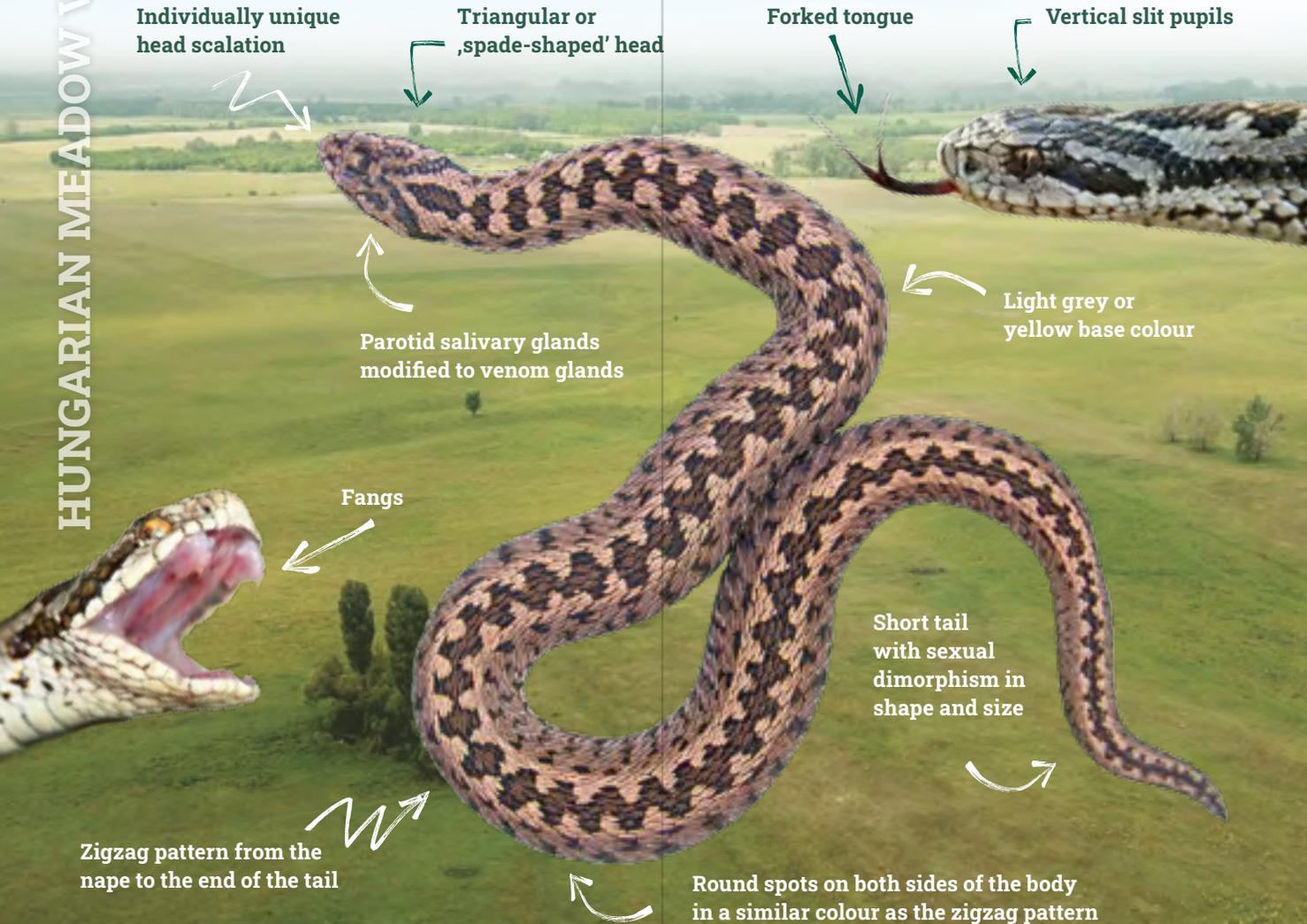


HOW TO IDENTIFY IT



Individually unique head scalation

Triangular or 'spade-shaped' head

Forked tongue

Vertical slit pupils

Parotid salivary glands modified to venom glands

Light grey or yellow base colour

Fangs

Short tail with sexual dimorphism in shape and size

Zigzag pattern from the nape to the end of the tail

Round spots on both sides of the body in a similar colour as the zigzag pattern

THREATS



Intensification of agriculture, cultivation, and **drainage of grasslands** resulted the shrinking of natural habitats.



Increasing numbers of **mammalian and avian predators** threaten the remaining viper populations.



Severe **drought** caused by **extreme weather conditions** and deliberate fires create massive damages on the habitats and lead to the direct loss of the individuals as well.



Illegal capture and trade, and the still existing **human persecution** further reduce the populations of Hungarian meadow viper.

Predators



Diet



- ◆ They live on the mosaics of dry and wet grasslands, marsh and sedge meadows, pastures.
- ◆ Surface activity can be detected mostly in the morning and in the late afternoon.
- ◆ They seek shelter for the winter in abandoned burrows.
- ◆ They emerge from hibernacula in the middle of March.
- ◆ After mating in April, females give birth to 4-26 young in August.
- ◆ Their mild venom only immobilizes small-sized prey.



CONSERVATION MEASURES



Restoration of favourable **grassland structure** on the existing habitats, establishment of grasslands, and securing their **viper-friendly management**, elimination of invasive plant species.



The **monitoring** aims to assess Hungarian meadow viper populations, to **study the plant and animal species** of the habitats, and to **follow-up the released viper individuals**.



Breeding and reintroduction of Hungarian meadow vipers targets the increase of population size, genetic diversity, and distribution area of the species in nature.



Raising awareness of the wide public is crucial in the long-term conservation of the species.

Hungarian meadow viper is:



since 1974



since 1988



since 1992



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VIABILITY IMPROVEMENT OF HUNGARIAN MEADOW VIPER

POPULATIONS AND HABITATS
IN THE PANNONIAN REGION



**HUNGARIAN
MEADOW
VIPER
PROJECT**

The LIFE-project „Viability improvement of Hungarian meadow viper populations and habitats in the Pannonian region (LIFE18 NAT/HU/000799)” provides financial support between 2019 and 2025 for the Hungarian meadow viper conservation activities.