

“ “
WHICH SNAKE DOES
THE GRASS SNAKE BEAR
A STRIKING
RESEMBLANCE TO?
” ”

- A: Aesculapian snake
- B: Long-nosed viper
- C: Viper
- D: Dice snake



Please use
the grey stamp!

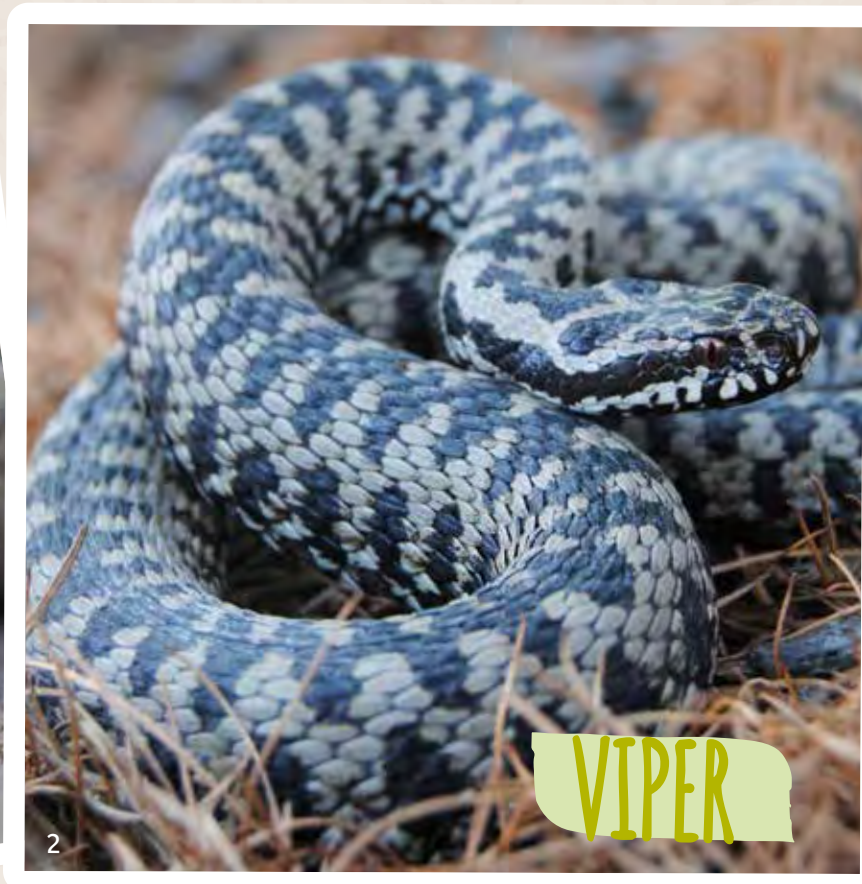
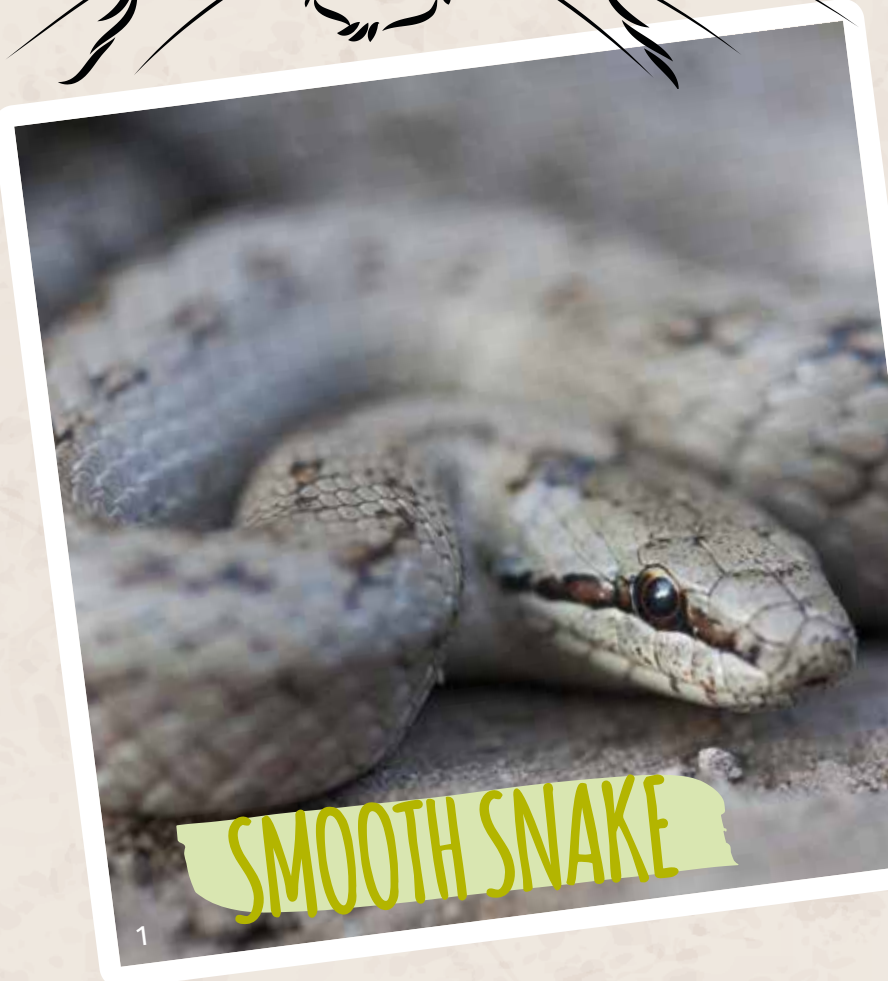
“ “
Did you know that the
SMOOTH SNAKE also hibernates
in mouseholes?
” ”



Please use
the white stamp!



The **VIPER** is a
dead ringer for the
smooth snake!!



“ Unfortunately, the harmless smooth snake is repeatedly confused with the viper. Out of fear people try to drive out or even to kill this supposedly poisonous snake. The smooth snake is totally non-poisonous, like every colubrid. Unfortunately, its smooth scaly coat is all too similar to that of the viper, a species which does not exist at all in the Hollabrunn Forest. The tail which thins out towards the end and the round eyes are a key differentiating indicator. If the pupil is round, the snake is a colubrid and not a viper. ”

GRACEFUL GLIDING

HERE COME THE REPTILES!

Reptiles are a part of the ecosystem of the Hollabrunn Forest just as much as all other species of animal and plant. As some reptiles flit quickly over the forest floor or remain concealed due to excellent camouflage, we often forget that they are there. So it is all the more exciting if you do in fact encounter one of these graceful, cold-blooded and harmless creatures when you are out for a walk in the forest. The Hollabrunn Forest provides a habitat for many snakes and lizards. One of the numerous reptiles it houses is the smooth snake, also known as *Coronella austriaca*. It is the flagship animal in the Hollabrunn Forest - inconspicuous, harmless and viviparous. It is a very unobtrusive snake, unknown to many. Thanks to its good camouflage, it goes unnoticed most of the time. Aesculapian snakes and grass snakes also romp about in this large forest. Like all colubrids, these three agents are not dangerous to humans. However, there are also other reptiles in addition to the snakes. A variety of lizards enjoy the sunny, dry glades. Slow worms, which belong to the lizard family, also wind their way through the forest.



The **SMOOTH SNAKE** bears a heart-shaped little crown at the back of its head.



The **GRASS SNAKE** bears a distinctive, yellow neck ring.



The **AESCULAPIAN SNAKE** has smooth, shiny scales without a distinctive pattern.



The **SLOW WORM** is a legless lizard and not in fact a snake.



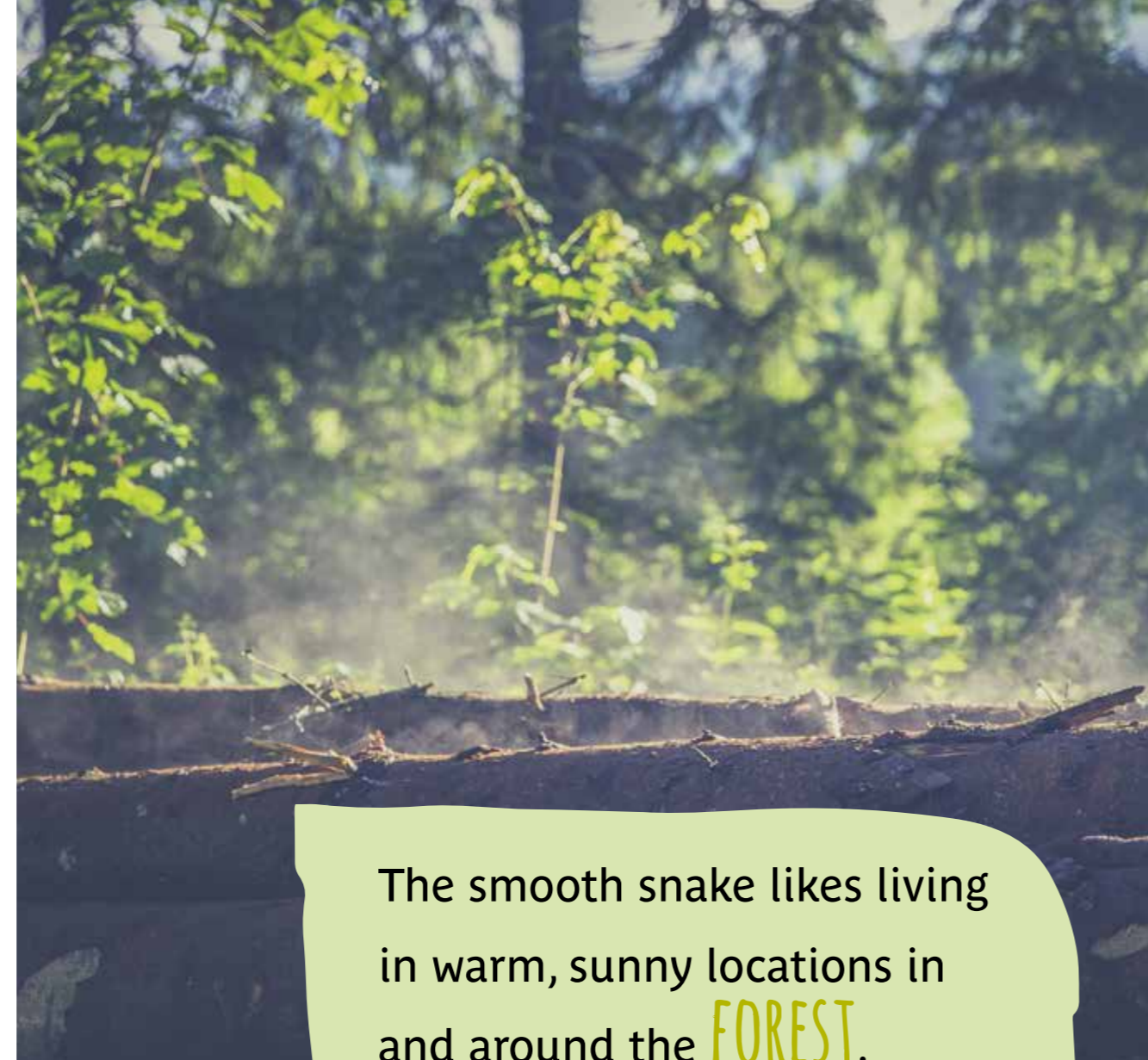
We smooth snakes are very dainty creatures. We do not get any fatter than a grown man's thumb. Having said that, we are very strong. If we catch larger prey animals like young mice or lizards, we wind ourselves around them firmly and suffocate them before we eat them up. And it is this behaviour that gives us our name.

On the three rotary cubes you will find 4 special features about smooth snakes, grass snakes and Aesculapian snakes.

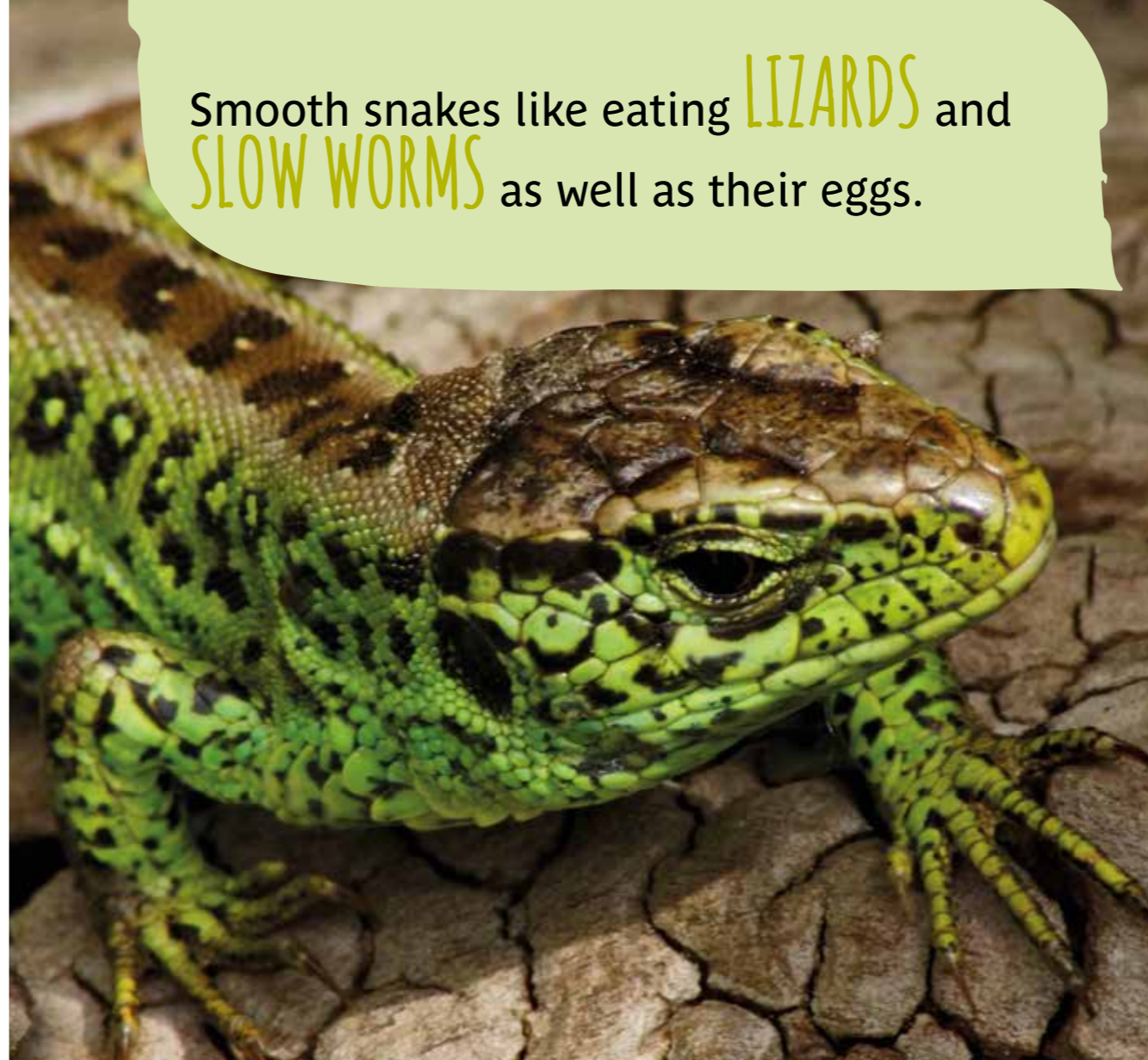


The adventure trail is a pilot investment of the VISIO project. It is realised within the framework of the INTERREG V-A, SK-AT programme and co-financed by ERDF.





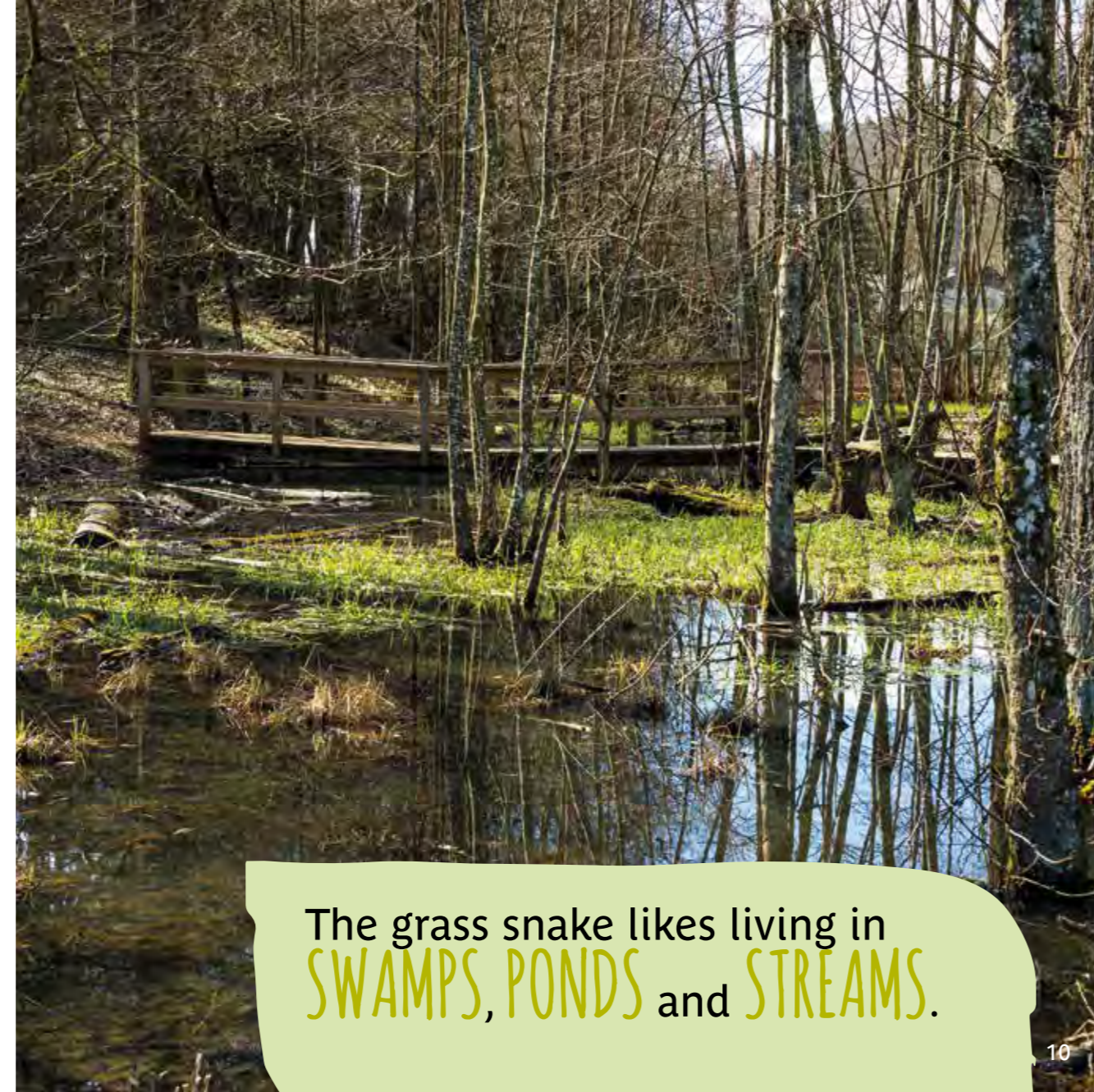
The smooth snake likes living in warm, sunny locations in and around the **FOREST**.



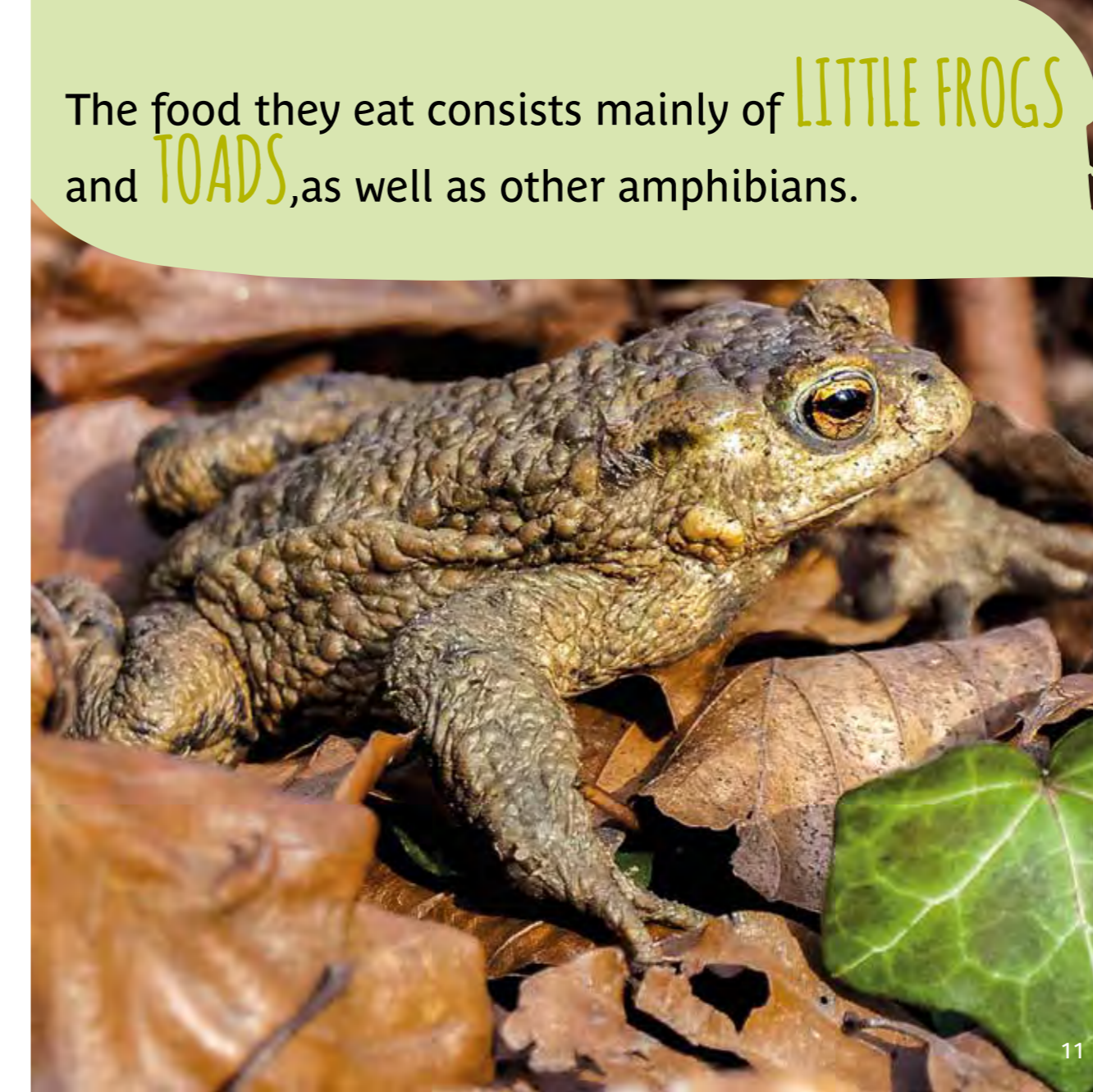
Smooth snakes like eating **LIZARDS** and **SLOW WORMS** as well as their eggs.



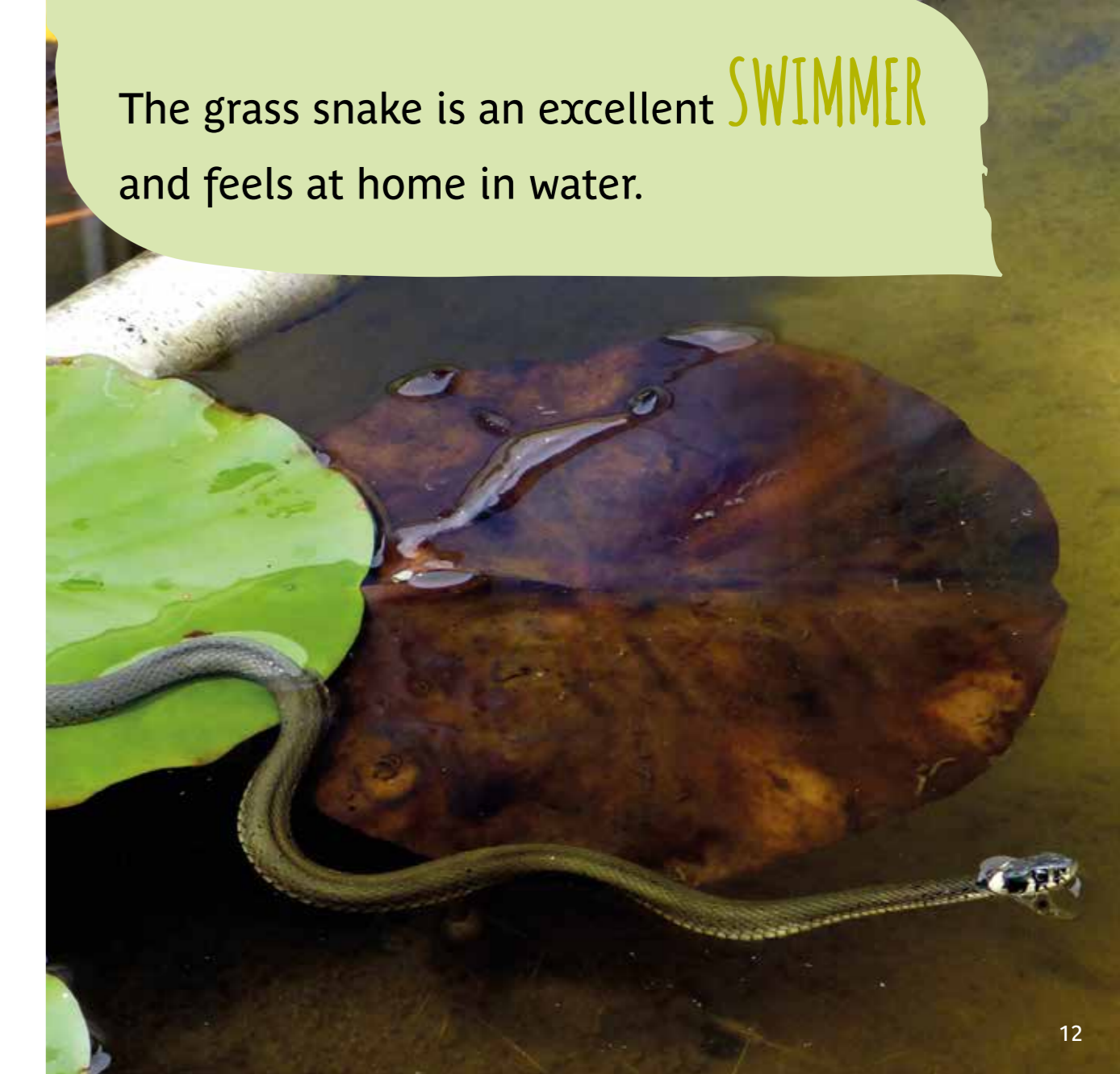
Smooth snakes bear their young in thin **EMBRYONIC MEMBRANES**.



The grass snake likes living in **SWAMPS, PONDS** and **STREAMS**.



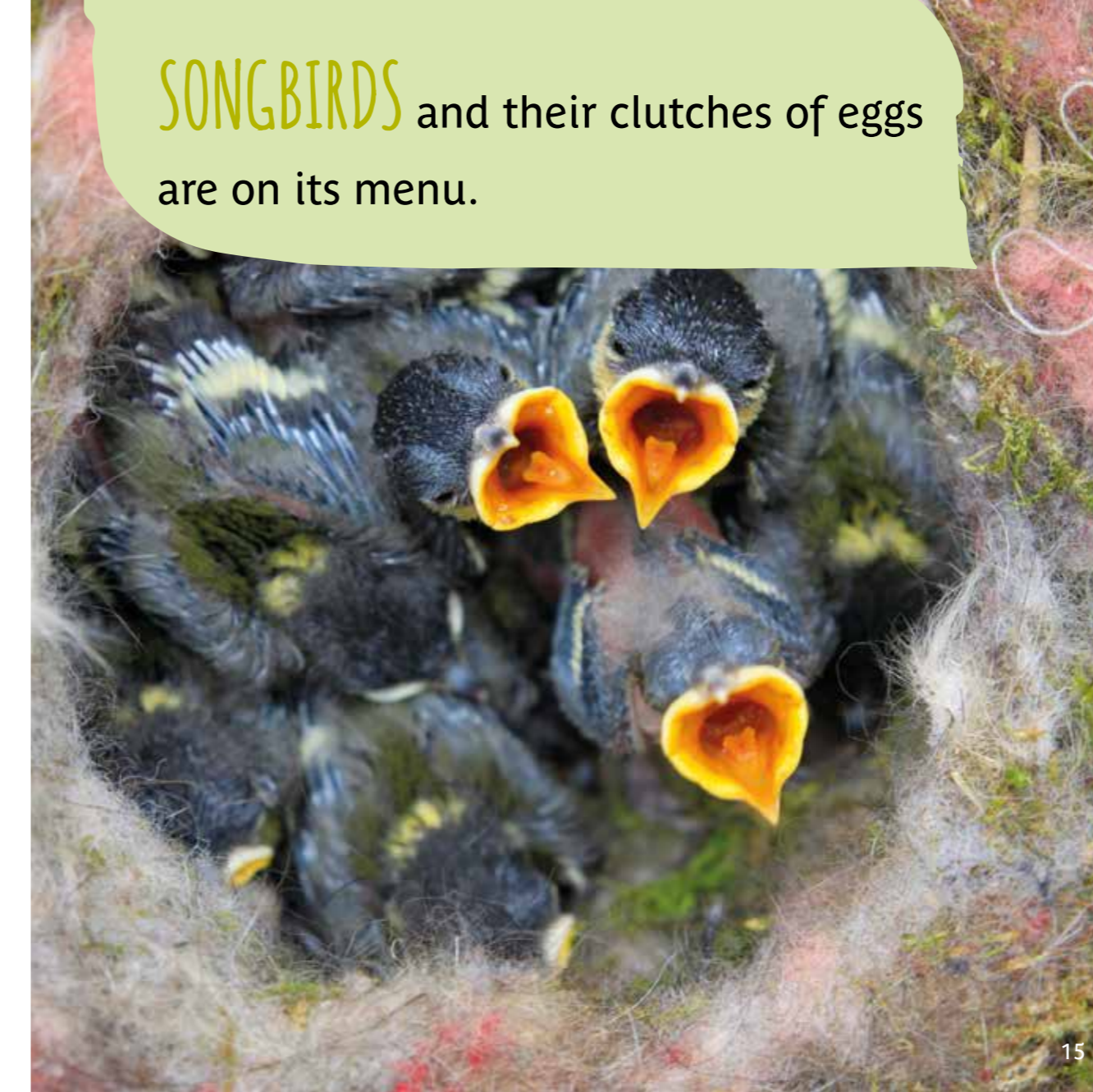
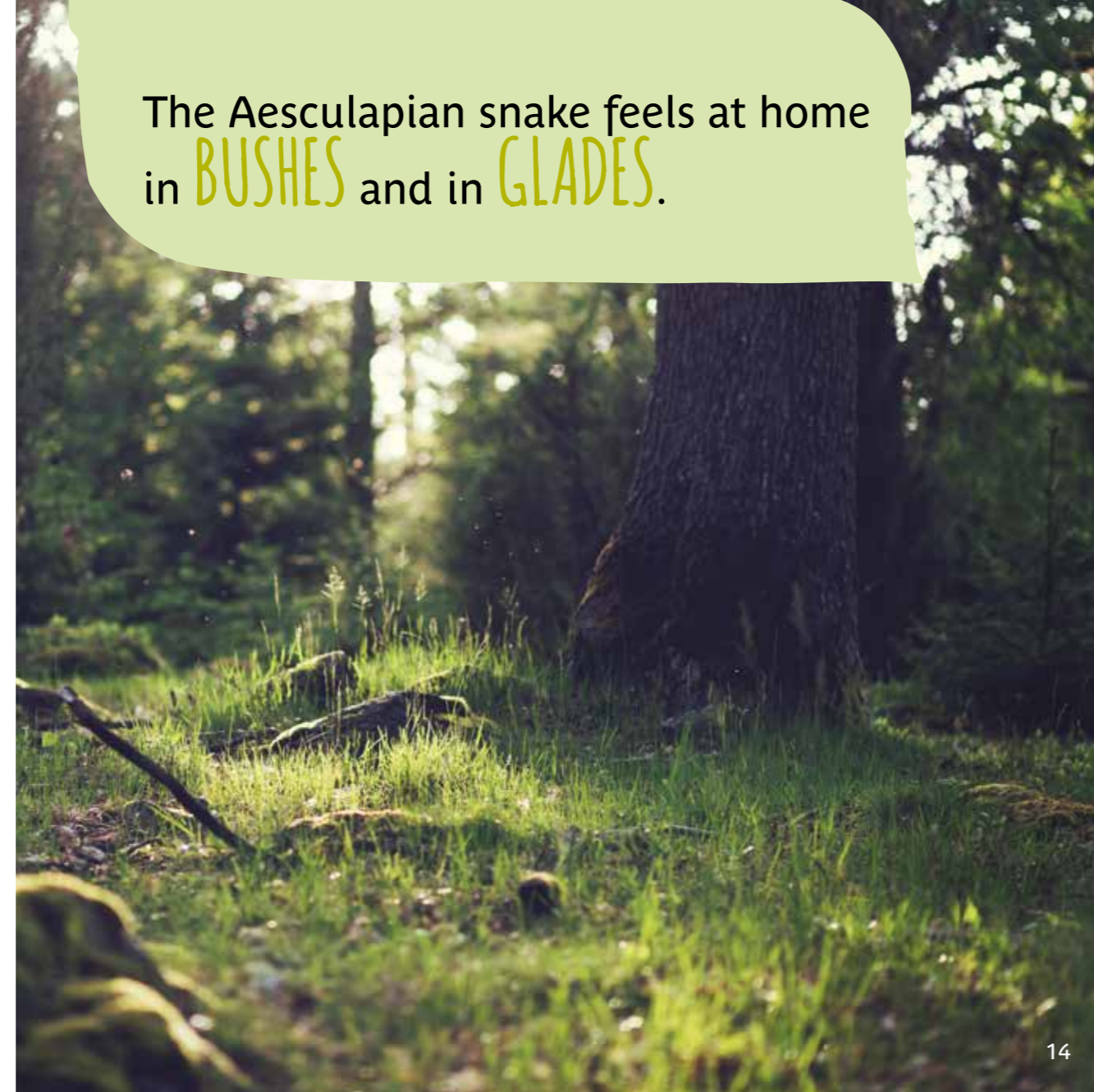
The food they eat consists mainly of **LITTLE FROGS** and **TOADS**, as well as other amphibians.



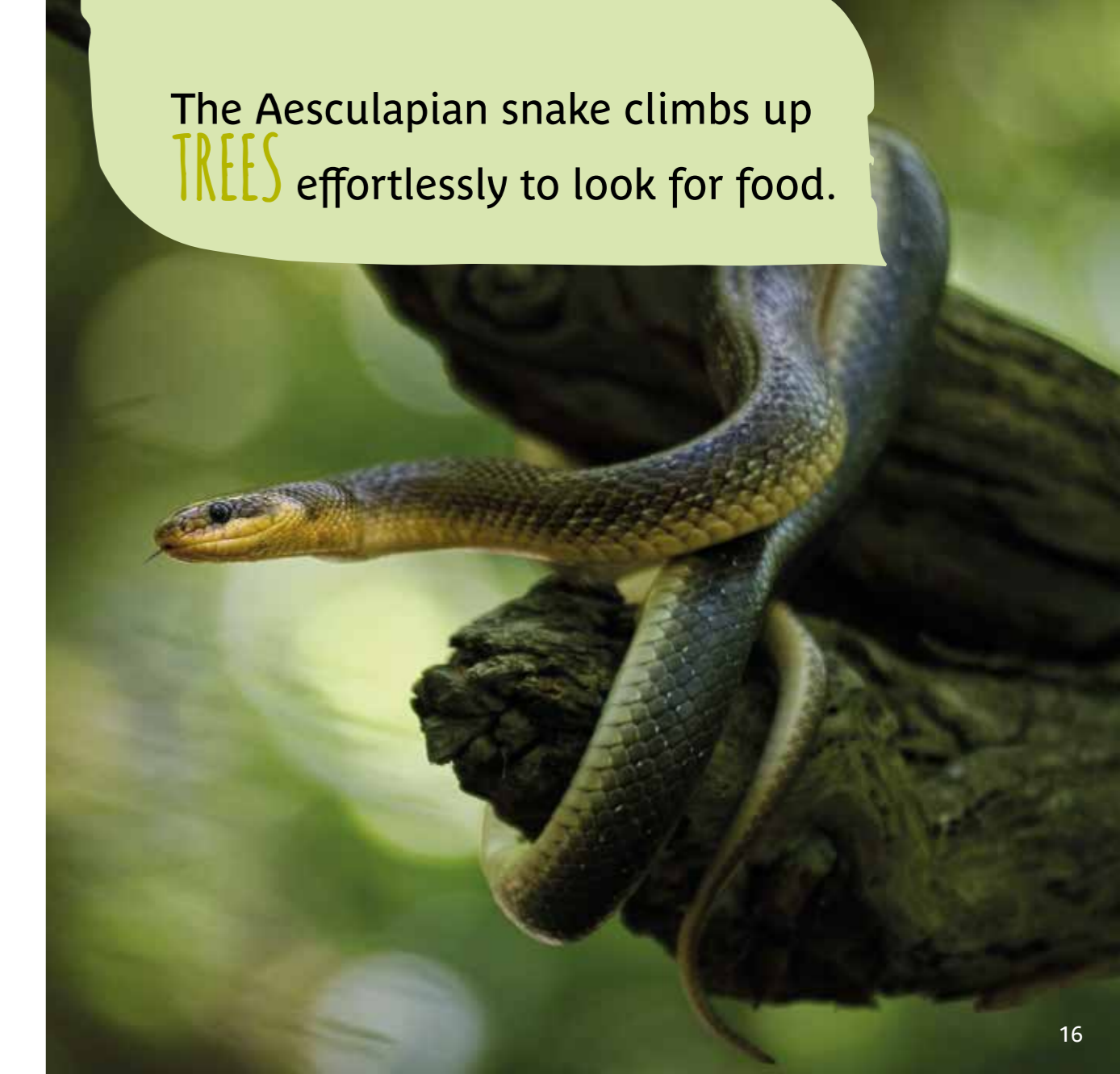
The grass snake is an excellent **SWIMMER** and feels at home in water.



The Aesculapian snake feels at home in **BUSHES** and in **GLADES**.



SONGBIRDS and their clutches of eggs are on its menu.



The Aesculapian snake climbs up **TREES** effortlessly to look for food.