

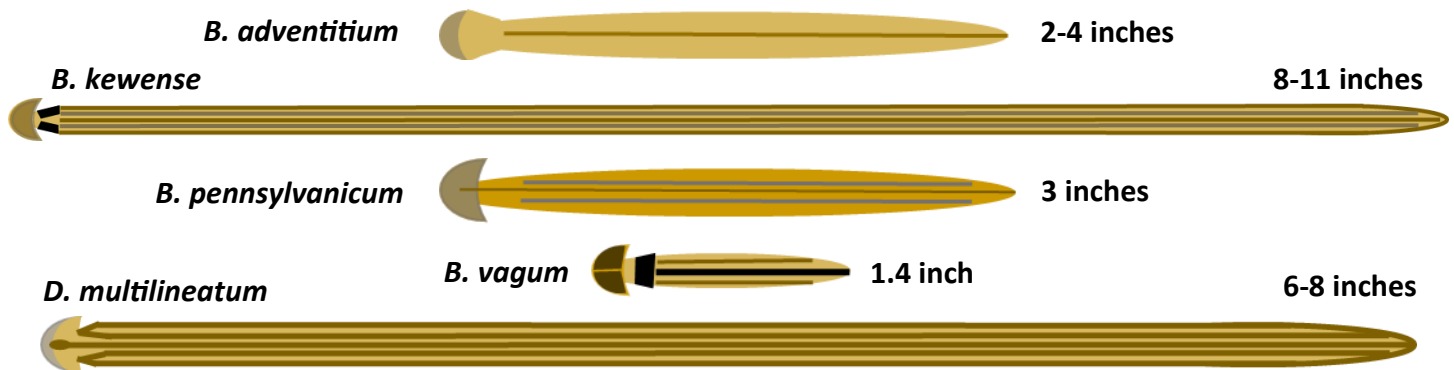
# Hammerhead worms

## *Bipalium* spp. & *Diversibipalium multilineatum*

### Overview

There are five invasive species of terrestrial hammerhead worms. They each have general areas they have been found: *B. adventitium* (native to Asia) in most northern states, *B. kewense* (native to Asia) in southern states, *B. pennsylvanicum* (unknown) in the Northeast, *B. vagum* (unknown) in Gulf Coast and Atlantic states, and *D. multilineatum* (native to Japan) in Mid-Atlantic states. They were likely introduced as hitchhikers in soil, potted plants, etc. Found in leaf litter, under rocks, and wet areas. There are no published studies documenting economic impacts except in earthworm rearing beds. Reports of observations can be made to [www.eddmaps.org](http://www.eddmaps.org) to document spread and provide information for future research.

### Dorsal (Back) Comparison



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### Identification\*

*B. adventitium* is 2-4 in. (5-10 cm) long, yellow-tan with one brown dorsal stripe and pale, unstriped ventral (belly) side. Head is small, rounded and may have a brown-grey edge, that fades towards the body.

*B. kewense* is 8-11 in. (20-30 cm) long and light brown with five dorsal stripes, with the 2nd and 4th grey. Two grey-violet ventral stripes. The neck has an incomplete black collar and the head is grey-black.

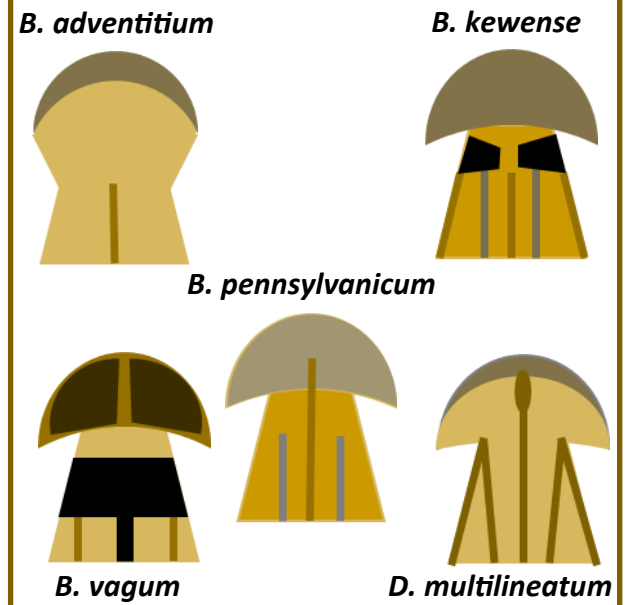
*B. pennsylvanicum* is 3 in. (8 cm) long, yellow-brown with three dorsal stripes, the two outside stripes thicker than the darker middle stripe. Ventral side pale, unstriped, and head is brown.

*B. vagum* is 1.4 in. (3.5 cm) long, light brown with three dorsal stripes, the middle is black and two outside are brown. Ventral side pale and unstriped. The neck has black collar and the head is black and brown. May have a black tip to tail.

*D. multilineatum* is 6-8 in. (15-21 cm) long, yellow-tan with five dark brown dorsal stripes, middle stripe extends into the head and other lines unite at the neck. Ventral side pale with three dark lines. The head is fan-shaped may have a brown edge that fades towards the body.

\*Colors and stripe visibility may vary within each species

### Head Comparison



### More Info

*B. adventitium* and *B. kewense* are toxic (tetrodotoxin) to smaller animals when eaten. Reproduce asexually (via fragmentation) or sexually (hermaphroditic). Eats worms and mollusks with a mouth in middle of its body.