

**Edward R. Henderson, Jr.**

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**From:** "Mark McWhorter" <mtmcvb@centurytel.net>  
**To:** "Mark McWhorter" <mtmcvb@centurytel.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 09, 2013 12:39 PM  
**Subject:** rattlesnake bite -- creation

When a rattlesnake strikes, it is so fast that high-speed photography is necessary to study it.

Those famous fangs of the rattlesnake are mounted on hinges so that they can fold up along the roof of the snake's mouth when



not in use. Each fang is a hollow needle, with a canal on the side of the end of the fang through which venom is injected. After only a couple of uses, the fang drops out, to be replaced by another.

When it strikes, the snake's neck muscles propel the head with such speed that a car with the same acceleration would go from 0 to 60 miles per hour in just half a second! As the head moves toward the prey, the fangs unfold and a suitable amount of venom is released into the victim. In less than a second, the snake is back in position. The venom not only kills the victim, but it also begins tenderizing the meat. When he swallows his victim, the rattlesnake can unhinge its jaws to make the job easier.

**Notes:**

Photo: Skull of a rattlesnake. Courtesy of Mokele. Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license. (Creation Moments email service)