Snakes are given different names depending upon their external features, food habits, movement, habitats and so on. The following is the list of synonyms taken from different works.

**Rg Veda:**
- Angya (I-191-7)
- Ahi (VII-104-7)
- Sarpa (I-16-6)
- Amsya (I-191-7)
- Dabhasi (I-91-3)
- Satani Kankat (I-191-1)

**Atharva Veda:**
- Aghasva (I-4-10)
- Ajas (II-2-25)
- Alik (V-13-5)
- Darvi (I-1-13)
- Jumi (II-24-5)
- Karikrata (I-4-13)
- Kasamila (I-4-5)
- Ratharvi (I-4-5)
- Sarpa (I-4-23)
- Sarabhaka (II-24-1)
- Svitra (I-4-5)
- Tiraciraj (III-27-2)

We find in total about 400 different names of snakes in the Vedas. They suggest not only the prevalence of snakes but the knowledge of people of Vedip period regarding the various types of snakes.
In addition to the names mentioned in the *Adiparva*, the other chapters also give us a large list of names, which were later classified by Vogel.

A great number of the names of nāgas mentioned in this Epic indicate colours such as: Pinjaraka (reddish-yellow, gold coloured), Pingala (tawry), Lohita (red), Aruna (ruddy), Kapila (brown-reddish), Kalmasha (black-spotted), Sabala (brindled), Chitra (variegated), Nila (dark blue), Krishna (black), and Sveta (white).

Some other names, indicators of qualities, such as: Ugraka (terrible), Dīpta (frightened), Sumana (kind), Karkara (hard), Nishturika (bitter), Vṛutta (round), Krasaka (thin), Badhira (deaf), and Andha (blind).

Some are given the names of animals: Kunjara (elephant), Asvatara (mule), Titiri (partridge), Khaga (bird), and Kukkura (dog).

A considerable number of their names are those of plants: Padma (and mahapadma, Kumuda, Pundarika, and Utpalaka - indicate lotus,- suggest waterly association (mahavyutpatti).

1. I-14-5
2. Vogel, op. cit., p.191
Names indicative of vegetables: Karavira (Oleyander, poisonous), Kusmanda (kind of pumpkin), Pindaraka, Silvaka (Silva = Aegle marmeloes), and Vilvapatta, Naridraka (yellow sandal-tree or Curcuma longa), Sirisaka (Acacia Sirissa), Kardama (a poisonous turnip),

The names of Karkotaka and Kulika are, perhaps, also to be reckoned as in this category.

Several naga-rajasa whose royal names are actually borne by personages of the epic are as follows:

Dhritarāstra, Dhananjaya, Āryaka, Kauravya, Anamejaya, Dilīpa, Prīdhūśara, Vas and Ambarīsha.

Very frequently we also come across pairs of names compounded into one: Karkotaka-Dhananjaya, Ambala-Asvatara, and A-Upamandana, Kundodara-Mahodara, Badhira-andha, Virasa-Sutara, Durmukha-Jumukha, Tala-Upakala.

Another such pair mentioned both in Brahmanical and Buddhist lore is Kambala ('blanket') and Asvatara ('mule').

Further, the Mahabharata maintained that the nagas were divided into races mainly to eight, viz., Esa,(ananta), Vasuki, Amaska, Dhritarāstra, Airavata, Karkotaka, and Sankha and Mani.
Purānas:

Our Puranas give us a vast list of snakes. Lingapurāṇa lists out 26 names of important nagas: Bhagavata Purāṇa - 15, Vayu Purāṇa - 41, Meelimata Purāṇa - more than 500 and so on.

Buddhist literature:

The Buddhist literature also, like Jatakas etc., mention the names of the nagas to a considerable extent who are closely associated with the life of the Buddha and some are listed hereunder:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bankhapala</th>
<th>Blapatra</th>
<th>Amavataptra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nanda</td>
<td>Upananda</td>
<td>KaliKA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girika</td>
<td>Vidyudjvala</td>
<td>apalala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champiya</td>
<td>Mucilinda</td>
<td>Pandura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amratirtha</td>
<td>Manhattan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Lingapurana 63-35 to 37
Amarakosh:

Amarakosh gives us synonyms of many a snake with explanation or the meaning:

1. Śeṣa or Ananta or Ādiseṣa and Vasuki — names of the nāga kings.
2. Ūnasā and Tilīpsa and Ajāgara — name for a python or a huge snake.
3. Śī — that which sleeps heavily.
4. Vānasā — that which gets delighted in the presence of wind.
5. Alagarda and Jalavyāla — names for water-snakes.
6. Ājila and Dumubha — names for a snake having two heads on either end — a tailless snake.
7. Maludhana and Matulahi — names for the snake that dwells among betel plants.
8. Nirmukta and Muktakançu — names for the snake that has sloughed at the moment.

All the above information of snakes, besides revealing their various aspects shows how much they became the objects of close observation, veneration and adoration to mankind.

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