herpy

SNAKES

Woma Python

Aspidites ramsayi

Aspidites ramsayi is a calm, nocturnal desert python from inland and western Australia. It reaches 140-170 cm, lacks the heat-sensitive pits that otherwise characterise pythons, and in the wild lives on lizards, small mammals and birds. It feeds readily in captivity and is hardy, but needs an enclosure with a dry substrate, a deep layer to dig in and a snug, dark hide.

Family: Pythonidae Former name: *Aspidiotes ramsayi; Aspidites collaris; Aspidites melanocephalus ramsayi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**140-170 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-25 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Desert and semi-desert**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-29 °C**
Basking spot	**31-33 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**24-48 months**
Clutch size	**5-20 eggs**
Incubation	**60-75 days** at 30-32 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs an enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 45 cm (length × width × height); the minimum is borrowed from pythons of similar size. The snake is active and likes to move, so larger is better.
TEMPERATURE	The enclosure must have a clear gradient. By day the cool end must be 26-29 °C, and the hot spot must be 31-33 °C. At night the temperature may fall to 22-25 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	*Aspidites ramsayi* comes from dry regions but spends the day in earth burrows, where the air is more humid than on the surface. Humidity in the enclosure must be 50-70 %, and the substrate must be dry.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and does not require UVB, but weak UVB is an advantage. It belongs to Ferguson zone 1.
FEEDING	*Aspidites ramsayi* has a strong feeding response and readily takes mice, rats and chicks.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Aspidites ramsayi* is calm, active and gets used to handling easily.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.