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SNAKES

African Brown House Snake

Boaedon fuliginosus

Boaedon fuliginosus is a small, slender, nocturnal constrictor from the savannas of West Africa, where it often lives close to human houses and eats everything from lizards to rodents. Animals in trade are hardy and usually become calm as adults, but they have a very eager feeding response and are skilled escape artists.

Family: Lamprophiidae Former name: *Lamprophis fuliginosus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**60-120 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Savanna**
Difficulty	**Beginner**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**90 × 45 × 40 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**40-60%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**5-16 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-4**
Incubation	**55-65 days** at 29-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult *B. fuliginosus* needs an enclosure of at least 90 × 45 × 40 cm. Larger is always better, and large females thrive in 100 × 50 × 40 cm.

TEMPERATURE

The enclosure must have a clear temperature gradient. By day it is 24-28 °C in the enclosure, with about 24 °C at the cool end. The warmest spot, where the snake can lie and warm itself, must be 30-32 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity should be 40-60 %. In most living rooms this is achieved with a water bowl, and misting is rarely necessary.

LIGHTING AND UVB

B. fuliginosus is nocturnal and does not need strong light. A fixed light rhythm of about 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness all year round gives a clear daily rhythm.

FEEDING

Boaedon fuliginosus constricts its prey, has a strong feeding response and almost always eats. It is fed whole, thawed mice or small rats, never live prey.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Young and subadults can be fast, bitey and restless, and they can spring out of the enclosure like a released spring when the lid is opened. Open the lid carefully over a safe place.

NATIVE RANGE

Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Central African Republic.