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SNAKES

Pacific Ground Boa

Candoia carinata

Candoia carinata is a small, slender boa with keeled scales and a prehensile tail from forests in Indonesia, New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago. It reaches 45-60 cm, is nocturnal and eats lizards and frogs when young, later also rodents. It gives birth to live young and is kept in a small, warm, humid enclosure with branches and a water bowl.

Family: Boidae Former name: *Boa carinata; Enygrus carinatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**45-60 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**80 × 40 × 50 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-28 °C**
Temperature, night	**24-26 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Litter size	**5-15 young**
Gestation	**210-270 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Candoia carinata*, so the recommendations also build on experience with other species in the genus *Candoia*.
TEMPERATURE	By day the enclosure should be 26-28 °C, warmest at one end so that the snake can choose, and 24-26 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should stay at 50-80%. Keep the substrate slightly damp, and mist the enclosure once or twice a week, and more often when the snake is about to shed. Adults typically shed about three times a year.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is nocturnal and needs a fixed day-night rhythm of 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness controlled by a timer. The enclosure should not be brightly lit.
FEEDING	Adult *Candoia carinata* are fed one suitably sized rodent every 3-4 weeks. The species is not very active and has a slow metabolism.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Candoia carinata* is quiet and spends the day hidden. Captive-bred animals are normally calm and seldom bite; wild-caught animals can be bad-tempered.
NATIVE RANGE	Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.