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SNAKES

## Amazon Basin Emerald Tree Boa

# *Corallus batesii*

*Corallus batesii* is a slender, arboreal boa from the Amazon Basin. Adults are dark green with white markings and a yellow belly, the young red-orange. Females reach about 195 cm, and the largest animals approach 270 cm. In 2009 the species was split off from *Corallus caninus*, which today covers only the populations on the Guiana Shield. It requires a large, tall and humid enclosure and an experienced keeper.

Family: Boidae  Former name: *Chrysenis batesii*

**KEY FACTS**

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **120-270 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **15-20 years** |
| Active | **At night** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest** |
| Difficulty | **Experienced** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **180 × 60 × 120 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **24-29 °C** |
| Basking spot | **30-33 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **22-26 °C** |
| Humidity | **65-80%** |
| Water | **Water dish** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 2 |
| Diet | **Vertebrates** |
| Kept | **Singly** |

### BREEDING

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|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Live-bearing** |
| Sexually mature | **36-60 months** |
| Litter size | **5-25 young** |
| Gestation | **180-210 days** |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

**THE ENCLOSURE**
An adult animal needs an enclosure of at least 180 × 60 × 120 cm (length × width × height), and larger and especially taller is better, as *Corallus batesii* grows larger than *C. caninus*.

**TEMPERATURE**
*Corallus batesii* needs even warmth throughout the enclosure and a distinct basking spot. The basking spot, a horizontal branch under the heat source, must be 30-33 °C.

**HUMIDITY AND WATER**
The humidity must be high and stable at 65-80 %. The most important thing is that the humidity does not fluctuate wildly and that the enclosure can dry out between mistings.

**LIGHTING AND UVB**
The species is nocturnal and can manage without UVB, but a weak UVB light gives a more distinct daily rhythm and ensures vitamin D3. The species belongs to Ferguson zone 2, with a UV index of about 2-3 at the basking spot.

**FEEDING**
*Corallus batesii* needs whole prey animals. Rats are the best food, from rat pups of 4-6 g for the young up to medium-sized rats of about 175 g for adults.

**BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING**
*Corallus batesii* is usually calm during the day and more placid than *C. caninus*, but it is not an animal for frequent handling, and young animals are often nervous and defensive.

**NATIVE RANGE**
Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia.