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SNAKES

Amazon Tree Boa

Corallus hortulana

Corallus hortulana is a slender, arboreal boa from the Amazon and the Guiana region. It reaches 120-190 cm, comes in many colours and lies in wait for prey on a branch at night. It is often defensive and suits an experienced keeper with room for a large enclosure.

Family: Boidae Former name: *Corallus hortulanus; Corallus enydris*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**120-190 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Savanna, dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 90 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-29 °C**
Basking spot	**31-34 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-24 °C**
Humidity	**40-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**36-48 months**
Litter size	**2-29 young**
Clutches per year	**1**
Gestation	**180-240 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult *Corallus hortulana* needs an enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 90 cm (length × width × height). The species is active and moves mostly horizontally between the branches, so floor area matters more than height.

TEMPERATURE

During the day the temperature in the enclosure should be 27-29 °C. Over a branch at one end, a heat lamp should provide a basking spot of 31-34 °C, which the snake uses for a few hours a day.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Corallus hortulana comes from a tropical climate, and the humidity should be 40-70 %, highest at night and lower during the day, when the heat dries the air. Raise it slightly during a shed.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Corallus hortulana is nocturnal, and UVB is not necessary. A weak UVB light (zone 2, a UV index of about 2-3 at the basking spot) can support the daily rhythm, but the figure is borrowed from *Corallus caninus*.

FEEDING

Corallus hortulana eats rodents, and most take mice from the first day. Give frozen and thawed prey on long tongs, not live. The prey must be no more than 20 % wider than the snake's body at its widest point.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Corallus hortulana is often nervous and defensive and not an animal for frequent handling. The snake can reach at least half its body length when it strikes, and the long teeth cause deep wounds.

NATIVE RANGE

Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.