herpy

SNAKES

D'Albertis's Python

Leiopython albertisii

Leiopython albertisii is a medium-sized python from the lowland forests of New Guinea, with a glossy black head, white lip scales and a smooth, iridescent body that shifts between brown-violet and blue-black in the light. It is nocturnal, fast and often defensive. The species needs stable warmth, high humidity and an experienced keeper, but is robust when the conditions are right.

Family: Pythonidae Former name: *Liasis albertisii; Bothrochilus albertisii*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**180-210 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-30 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**180 × 60 × 60 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**25-30 °C**
Basking spot	**32-35 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**70-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Optional**
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**36-48 months**
Clutch size	**10-14 eggs**
Incubation	**55-65 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 a terrarium of at least 180 × 60 × 60 cm (length × width × height). The species is active at night and uses the whole floor area, and cramped conditions cause stress and defensive behaviour.

TEMPERATURE
There must be a distinct gradient. By day the temperature in the terrarium is 25-30 °C, from 25-27 °C at the cool end to 29-31 °C at the warm end, and under the heat source the surface should be 32-35 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity should be 70-80% and preferably slightly higher during shedding. The species has thin skin and dries out quickly when the air is too dry.

LIGHTING AND UVB
L. albertisii is nocturnal and spends the day hidden. The light should be on for 12 hours a day and switched off completely at night, so the animal has a clear rhythm.

FEEDING
L. albertisii eats whole prey. Captive-bred animals get thawed mice and rats and usually eat with great appetite.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
L. albertisii is fast, alert and often defensive, and many animals never become completely calm. Captive-bred animals are milder than wild-caught ones, which can keep their sharpness all their lives.

NATIVE RANGE
Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Australia.