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SNAKES

Reticulated Python

Malayopython reticulatus

Malayopython reticulatus is the world's longest snake: a smooth, powerful python from the rainforests and wetlands of South-East Asia with a pattern of black, yellow and white diamonds. Adults of the standard form reach 450-600 cm, and the species needs a very large enclosure with a deep pool, 31-34 °C at the basking spot and a keeper with great experience. There are smaller locality forms of 150-490 cm.

Family: Pythonidae Former name: *Python reticulatus; Broghammerus reticulatus; Morelia reticulatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**450-600 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-25 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal, terrestrial and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**450 × 225 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-26 °C**
Basking spot	**31-34 °C**
Temperature, night	**23-25 °C**
Humidity	**65-90%**
Water	**Water section**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**18-36 months**
Clutch size	**25-50 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1**
Incubation	**80-90 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

Malayopython reticulatus is so large that an adult belongs in a purpose-built room rather than in an ordinary enclosure.

TEMPERATURE

Provide a clear gradient. The hot spot (the surface under the heat lamp) should be 31-34 °C, the cool end 24-26 °C and the night 23-25 °C. The temperature must not go below 22 °C or above 38 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity should be 65-90%, at the same level as in the native range, and small fluctuations are fine. The substrate must not be wet all the time, because that is just as bad as air that is too dry.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is active both day and night. Captive-bred generations manage without UVB, but daylight and UVB probably benefit the daily rhythm, appetite and immune system, and they are recommended.

FEEDING

M. reticulatus is a carnivore and needs whole prey of mammals and birds. Rats are the standard, but variety is important. In the wild the prey ranges from bats and rodents to birds, wild boar, deer and sun bears.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Malayopython reticulatus is an intelligent and very active snake. It lives alone in the wild, and in captivity the animals are kept singly.

NATIVE RANGE

Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Philippines and India.