herpy

SNAKES

Centralian Carpet Python

Morelia bredli

Morelia bredli is a stout, partly arboreal python from Australia's red centre around Alice Springs. Adults are reddish brown to terracotta with dark-edged crossbands and grow to 180-220 cm, while the hatchlings are grey and brown and change colour over two to four years. It needs a clear, cool winter, dry air and plenty of room to climb, and it can live for 20-30 years.

Family: Pythonidae Former name: *Python bredli; Morelia spilota bredli*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**180-220 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-30 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Semi-desert, savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 70 × 100 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**28-32 °C**
Basking spot	**34-38 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-24 °C**
Humidity	**40-55%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Winter rest	**18-23 °C** 8-12 weeks
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**18-36 months**
Clutch size	**20-47 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1**
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 *Morelia bredli* needs a terrarium of at least 150 × 70 × 100 cm (length × width × height). Large females over 200 cm need more, for example 180 × 80 × 100 cm, and larger is always better if the set-up is good.

TEMPERATURE

Temperature control is the most important part of caring for *Morelia bredli*, because the species has a distinct summer and winter.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity must be low: 40-55 % all year. This is deliberately lower than for most forms of *Morelia spilota*, because the species comes from a dry area with fresh air.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is most active at dusk and at night, but basks now and then during the day, and in the wild it is exposed to strong sunlight.

FEEDING

Morelia bredli eats whole prey. Use frozen and thawed mice and rats, not live animals, and warm them to about 38 °C. The prey should be as thick as the snake at its thickest point in the middle of the body.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Adult *Morelia bredli* are calm and safe animals that tolerate handling well, while young under two years are nervous and bite readily. This passes with age. Leave a new snake in peace for two weeks.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.