herpy

SNAKES

Burmese Python

Python bivittatus

Python bivittatus is one of the world's largest snakes, a heavy, calm python from the forests, swamps and grasslands of South-East Asia, with brown, dark-edged blotches on a pale ground colour. Adults measure 300-500 cm, and females are far heavier than males. The species requires a very large enclosure with a pool, 32-34 °C at the basking spot and a great deal of experience, and it can live for more than 20 years.

Family: Pythonidae Former name: *Python molurus bivittatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**300-500 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-25 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Savanna, rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**300 × 150 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-31 °C**
Basking spot	**32-34 °C**
Temperature, night	**26-28 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water section**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**24-36 months**
Clutch size	**12-36 eggs**
Incubation	**60-90 days** at 31-32 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Size is the species' greatest challenge: most setups are too small.
TEMPERATURE	The enclosure must have a gradient. The basking spot must be 32-34 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer, the cool side 27-31 °C and the night 26-28 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be about 60 %, with higher values just after misting, measured with a digital hygrometer in the middle of the enclosure.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is most active at night and at dusk, but must have a fixed day and night rhythm with about 12 hours of light and 12 hours of dark.
FEEDING	*P. bivittatus* is a carnivore and must have whole prey of mammals and birds.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*P. bivittatus* is calm and seldom aggressive, but an adult animal is stronger than a human and can be life-threatening.
NATIVE RANGE	Nepal, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China and Indonesia.