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SNAKES

Borneo Short-tailed Python

Python breitensteini

Python breitensteini is a heavy-bodied, short-tailed python from the lowland forests and swamp edges of Borneo, yellowish brown to dark brown with darker blotches and often a yellow head. It reaches 120-150 cm, weighs several kilos and eats rats. It is kept in a large, ventilated floor-space enclosure with stable heat, 60-70% humidity and a large water bowl.

Family: Pythonidae Former name: *Python curtus breitensteini; Aspidoboa breitensteini*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**120-150 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**4,000-7,000 g**
Lifespan	**20-25 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 45 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-31 °C**
Temperature, night	**25-26 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**36-48 months**
Clutch size	**12-30 eggs**
Incubation	**60-75 days** at 31-32 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
An adult *Python breitensteini* needs an enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 45 cm (length × width × height). The species is terrestrial, so floor area matters more than height.

TEMPERATURE
By day the temperature should be 27-28 °C and by night 25-26 °C. If the snake has a warm spot, it should be 30-31 °C. Stable temperatures matter more than high ones, and excessive heat stresses the species.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity should stay at 60-70%. If the air is too dry, shedding is poor and the skin comes off in pieces or sticks altogether.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Python breitensteini is most active in the evening and at night, but needs a fixed day-night rhythm of 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness controlled by a timer. The enclosure should not be brightly lit.

FEEDING
Python breitensteini eats rats from juvenile to adult. Juveniles start on hopper mice and quickly move on to rat pups.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Python breitensteini is sedentary and spends most of the day hidden. It is heavy and must be supported with both hands and forearms, never dangled or draped around the shoulders.

NATIVE RANGE
Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.