herpy

SNAKES

Blood Python

Python brongersmai

Python brongersmai is a heavy, short-tailed python from swamps and forests in South-East Asia, red, orange or yellowish brown with yellow and beige markings. It reaches 120-180 cm, weighs many kilos and eats rodents. It can live for more than 25 years and is kept in a large, closed floor enclosure with stable heat, 60-70 % humidity and a large water bowl.

Family: Pythonidae Former name: *Python curtus brongersmai*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**120-180 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**20-30 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	**26-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °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 animal needs an enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 45 cm (length × width × height). The species uses only the floor, so floor area is the most important, and the enclosure must be wider than it is tall.
TEMPERATURE	The species thrives at stable, moderate temperatures and tolerates too much heat poorly. The whole enclosure is kept at 26-28 °C by day and 25-26 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be 60-70 %, measured with a digital hygrometer in the middle of the enclosure.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is crepuscular and nocturnal, and UVB is not necessary but can be used. Ordinary light in a room with a natural day-night rhythm is enough, and the light is switched on for about 12 hours. Do not provide light at night.
FEEDING	*P. brongersmai* is a carnivore and must be given whole prey. Rats are the ideal prey throughout life; newly hatched young are often started on hopper mice and switch within a few meals to rat pups.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*P. brongersmai* requires a calm and decisive keeper. Give a new animal about 2 weeks in peace, and begin handling only when it eats regularly. Keep the first sessions short, a few minutes.
NATIVE RANGE	Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.