herpy

SNAKES

Sumatran Short-tailed Python

Python curtus

Python curtus is a heavy, short-tailed python from the swamp forests and rainforests of Sumatra, dark brown to jet black, often with a grey or silvery head. It reaches 110-150 cm, weighs several kilos and eats rats. It lives 20-25 years and is kept in a large, ventilated enclosure with plenty of floor space with stable heat, 60-80% humidity and a large water bowl.

Family: Pythonidae Former name: *Aspidoboa curta*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**110-150 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	**26-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-31 °C**
Temperature, night	**25-26 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**36-48 months**
Clutch size	**6-12 eggs**
Incubation	**75-90 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 curtus* needs an enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 45 cm (length × width × height).

TEMPERATURE
The enclosure needs a slight gradient: 26-28 °C during the day with a warm spot of 30-31 °C at one end and 25-26 °C at night.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity is the most important environmental factor for *Python curtus*. The humidity should stay steady at 60-80%.

LIGHTING AND UVB
Python curtus is most active in the evening and at night, but needs a regular day-night rhythm. 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness controlled by a timer suit the species' equatorial home.

FEEDING
Python curtus eats whole, frozen and thawed rodents. Rats are the standard, from rat pups for young through medium-sized to large rats for adults. Live prey is discouraged, because the rodent can injure the snake.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Python curtus is sedentary and spends most of the day hidden and motionless; this is normal. It is heavy and strong and must be supported with both hands and forearms.

NATIVE RANGE
Indonesia.