herpy

SERPIENTES

Black-headed Python

Aspidites melanocephalus

Aspidites melanocephalus is a powerful, nocturnal python from northern Australia with a glossy black head and a black neck. It grows to 150-200 cm, lacks the heat-sensing pits that otherwise characterise pythons, and in the wild lives mostly on lizards and other snakes. All animals in the trade are captive-bred. It is calm, but can eat other snakes and must be kept alone.

Familia: Pythonidae Nombre anterior: *Aspidiotes melanocephalus*

DATOS CLAVE

EL ANIMAL

Tamaño adulto	**150-200 cm** longitud total con la cola
Esperanza de vida	**20-30 años**
Activo	**De noche**
Modo de vida	**Terrestre y excavador**
Hábitat	**Semidesierto y sabana**
Dificultad	**Intermedio**

CUIDADOS

Terrario mín.	**180 × 90 × 60 cm** L × An × Al para 1 adulto
Temperatura, día	**26-28 °C**
Punto caliente	**33-35 °C**
Temperatura, noche	**22-25 °C**
Humedad	**50-70 %**
Agua	**Bebedero**
UVB	**Opcional** Zona Ferguson 1
Alimentación	**Vertebrados**
Se mantiene	**En solitario**

CRÍA

Reproducción	**Ovípara**
Madurez sexual	**30-60 meses**
Tamaño de la puesta	**6-20 huevos**
Incubación	**58-65 días** a 30-32 °C

PROTECCIÓN Y TRÁMITES

CITES	**Apéndice II**
Anexo de la UE	**Anexo B**
UICN	**Preocupación menor (LC)**

Cuidados de un vistazo

EL TERRARIO

An adult *Aspidites melanocephalus* needs an enclosure of at least 180 × 90 × 60 cm (length × width × height). The species grows larger than *Aspidites ramsayi* and is active, so larger is better.

TEMPERATURA

The enclosure must have a clear gradient. The cool side should be 26-28 °C, and the basking spot 33-35 °C. At night the temperature may fall to 22-25 °C (the figure is borrowed from *Aspidites ramsayi*).

HUMEDAD Y AGUA

Humidity should be 50-70% (the figure is borrowed from *Aspidites ramsayi*). Ventilation must be good, and the substrate must not be wet, because constant moisture causes blisters and scale rot.

ILUMINACIÓN Y UVB

The species is nocturnal and does not require UVB. Weak UVB (Ferguson zone 1) can be used as long as there are hides and shade; the recommendation is borrowed from related nocturnal pythons. Use a timer and a dark night.

ALIMENTACIÓN

Adults readily take rats, and they are given frozen and thawed, because this is safer for both snake and keeper.

COMPORTAMIENTO Y MANIPULACIÓN

Aspidites melanocephalus is calm and easy to handle but can strike with a closed mouth when it feels threatened. Juveniles and snakes in shed, when the eyes are covered, are the quietest.

ÁREA DE DISTRIBUCIÓN NATURAL

Australia.