herpy

SERPENTS

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.

Famille: Pythonidae Ancien nom: *Aspidiotes melanocephalus*

INFORMATIONS ESSENTIELLES

L'ANIMAL

Taille adulte	**150-200 cm** longueur totale queue comprise
Espérance de vie	**20-30 ans**
Activité	**La nuit**
Mode de vie	**Terrestre et fouisseur**
Habitat	**Semi-désert et savane**
Difficulté	**Intermédiaire**

ENTRETIEN

Terrarium min.	**180 × 90 × 60 cm** L × l × H pour 1 adulte
Température, jour	**26-28 °C**
Zone de bain de soleil	**33-35 °C**
Température, nuit	**22-25 °C**
Hygrométrie	**50-70 %**
Eau	**Gamelle d'eau**
UVB	**Facultatifs** Zone de Ferguson 1
Alimentation	**Vertébrés**
Détention	**Seul**

REPRODUCTION

Reproduction	**Ovipare**
Maturité sexuelle	**30-60 mois**
Taille de la ponte	**6-20 œufs**
Incubation	**58-65 jours** à 30-32 °C

PROTECTION ET FORMALITÉS

CITES	**Annexe II**
Annexe UE	**Annexe B**
UICN	**Préoccupation mineure (LC)**

L'entretien en bref

LE TERRARIUM

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.

TEMPÉRATURE

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*).

HYGROMÉTRIE ET EAU

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.

ÉCLAIRAGE ET 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.

ALIMENTATION

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

COMPORTEMENT ET MANIPULATION

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.

AIRE D'ORIGINE

Australie.