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SERPENTS

African Rock Python

Python sebae

Python sebae is Africa's largest snake: a heavy-bodied, brownish python with a dark spear-shaped mark on the head and stair-step blotches along the back. Adults are usually 300-500 cm long and weigh 45-65 kg. The species lives in savanna, forest and by water south of the Sahara, has a reputation for being irritable and needs a very large, escape-proof enclosure, a pool and great experience.

Famille: Pythonidae Ancien nom: *Python sebae sebae*

INFORMATIONS ESSENTIELLES

L'ANIMAL

Taille adulte	**300-500 cm** longueur totale queue comprise
Espérance de vie	**15-30 ans**
Activité	**Au crépuscule et la nuit**
Mode de vie	**Terrestre et semi-aquatique**
Habitat	**Savane, forêt tropicale humide et zone humide**
Difficulté	**Expert**

ENTRETIEN

Terrarium min.	**300 × 150 × 120 cm** L × l × H pour 1 adulte
Température, jour	**27-31 °C**
Zone de bain de soleil	**32-34 °C**
Température, nuit	**26-28 °C**
Hygrométrie	**60-70 %**
Eau	**Partie aquatique**
UVB	**Recommandés** Zone de Ferguson 2
Alimentation	**Vertébrés**
Détention	**Seul**

REPRODUCTION

Reproduction	**Ovipare**
Maturité sexuelle	**36-60 mois**
Taille de la ponte	**20-100 œufs**
Incubation	**65-80 jours** à 31-32 °C

PROTECTION ET FORMALITÉS

CITES	**Annexe II**
Annexe UE	**Annexe B**
UICN	**Quasi menacée (NT)**

L'entretien en bref

LE TERRARIUM

No detailed care information exists for *Python sebae*, which is a rarely kept species, and size, warmth, humidity and diet are therefore borrowed from *Python bivittatus* and *Python molurus*, which are kept in captivity in the same way.

TEMPÉRATURE

The enclosure needs a clear gradient. The basking spot should be 32-34 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer, the rest of the enclosure 27-31 °C by day and 26-28 °C at night.

HYGROMÉTRIE ET EAU

Humidity should be 60-70 %, measured with a digital hygrometer in the middle of the enclosure. The species lives in moist savanna and forest near water, and the figure is borrowed from *Python bivittatus*.

ÉCLAIRAGE ET UVB

The species is most active at dusk and at night, but it needs a fixed day-night rhythm with about 12 hours of light and 12 hours of darkness.

ALIMENTATION

P. sebae is a carnivore and needs whole prey animals of mammals and birds. Rats are the standard, and as the animal grows, rabbits, guinea pigs, quail and chicks are used.

COMPORTEMENT ET MANIPULATION

P. sebae is one of the most defensive pythons. Animals caught in the wild rarely get used to handling or to living in an enclosure, and even captive-bred animals do not always become calm.

AIRE D'ORIGINE

Sénégal, Gambie, Mauritanie, Guinée-Bissau, Guinée, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Bénin, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Cameroun, République centrafricaine, Mali, Niger, Tchad, Soudan, Soudan du Sud, Éthiopie, Érythrée, Ouganda, Kenya, Congo-Kinshasa, Congo-Brazzaville, Gabon, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzanie, Angola, Somalie et Guinée équatoriale.