herpy

SERPENTI

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.

Famiglia: Pythonidae Nome precedente: *Aspidiotes melanocephalus*

DATI ESSENZIALI

L'ANIMALE

Dimensioni da adulto	**150-200 cm** lunghezza totale inclusa la coda
Aspettativa di vita	**20-30 anni**
Attività	**Di notte**
Stile di vita	**Terrestre e scavatore**
Habitat	**Semideserto e savana**
Difficoltà	**Intermedio**

CURA

Terrario min.	**180 × 90 × 60 cm** L × P × H per 1 adulto
Temperatura, giorno	**26-28 °C**
Punto caldo	**33-35 °C**
Temperatura, notte	**22-25 °C**
Umidità	**50-70%**
Acqua	**Ciotola d'acqua**
UVB	**Facoltativi** Zona Ferguson 1
Alimentazione	**Vertebrati**
Detenzione	**Singolarmente**

RIPRODUZIONE

Riproduzione	**Ovipara**
Maturità sessuale	**30-60 mesi**
Uova per deposizione	**6-20 uova**
Incubazione	**58-65 giorni** a 30-32 °C

TUTELA E DOCUMENTI

CITES	**Appendice II**
Allegato UE	**Allegato B**
IUCN	**Minima preoccupazione (LC)**

La cura in breve

IL 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*).

UMIDITÀ E ACQUA

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.

ILLUMINAZIONE E 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.

ALIMENTAZIONE

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

COMPORTAMENTO E MANIPOLAZIONE

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.

AREALE D'ORIGINE

Australia.

La guida completa con mappa e aggiornamenti: herpy.org/en/snakes/aspidites-melanocephalus