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COBRAS

## Mexican Kingsnake

# *Lampropeltis mexicana*

*Lampropeltis mexicana* is a slender kingsnake from the highlands of central Mexico with red, black-edged crossbands on a grey or brown ground colour and a variegated red pattern on the head. It reaches 60-90 cm, is nocturnal and reserved and needs a dry to slightly humid terrarium with many hides and a cool winter rest. The pattern resembles that of a coral snake, but the snake is completely harmless.

Família: Colubridae  Nome anterior: *Ophibolus triangulus mexicanus; Coronella mexicana; Oreophis boulengeri*

### DADOS PRINCIPAIS

#### O ANIMAL

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| Tamanho adulto | **60-90 cm**<br>comprimento total com a cauda |
| Longevidade | **15-25 anos** |
| Ativo | **Ao crepúsculo e à noite** |
| Estilo de vida | **Terrestre** |
| Habitat | **Floresta de montanha e terreno rochoso** |
| Dificuldade | **Intermediário** |

#### CUIDADOS

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| Terrário mín. | **90 × 45 × 45 cm**<br>C × L × A para 1 adulto |
| Temperatura, dia | **20-26 °C** |
| Ponto quente | **28-30 °C** |
| Temperatura, noite | **16-20 °C** |
| Umidade | **40-60%** |
| Água | **Recipiente de água** |
| UVB | **Recomendado**<br>Zona de Ferguson 2 |
| Repouso de inverno | **10-14 °C**<br>8-12 semanas |
| Alimentação | **Vertebrados** |
| Mantido | **Sozinho** |

#### REPRODUÇÃO

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| Reprodução | **Ovíparo** |
| Tamanho da postura | **3-5 ovos** |
| Incubação | **60-70 dias**<br>a 25-27 °C |

#### PROTEÇÃO E DOCUMENTAÇÃO

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| CITES | **Não listado** |
| Anexo da UE | **Não listado** |
| IUCN | **Menos preocupante (LC)** |

## Resumo dos cuidados

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| **O TERRÁRIO** | Little is known about the care of *Lampropeltis mexicana* specifically. Care is based on the climate of the highlands and on the closely related mountain kingsnakes, especially *Lampropeltis alterna*. |
| **TEMPERATURA** | The terrarium must have a distinct temperature gradient, so the animal can choose a spot. By day the air in the terrarium is 20-26 °C, with 20-22 °C at the cool end and 28-30 °C on the surface under the heat source. |
| **UMIDADE E ÁGUA** | Humidity is 40-60%, and the terrarium is well ventilated. The substrate is dry to slightly moist, and higher values for longer periods cause skin problems and respiratory infections. |
| **ILUMINAÇÃO E UVB** | The species is nocturnal and secretive and in the wild gets only a little direct sunlight. UVB is not necessary but is recommended for welfare. |
| **ALIMENTAÇÃO** | In the wild diurnal lizards are the main food, but in captivity the animals usually eat thawed, frozen mice, which are the safest diet. Do not offer live rodents, because they can bite and injure the snake. |
| **COMPORTAMENTO E MANUSEIO** | *L. mexicana* is reserved and nervous at first, but usually gets used to handling. Give a new animal about two weeks in peace, and begin handling only once it is eating regularly. |
| **ÁREA DE OCORRÊNCIA NATURAL** | México. |