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SNAKES

Amazon Basin Emerald Tree Boa

Corallus batesii

Corallus batesii is a slender, arboreal boa from the Amazon Basin. Adults are dark green with white markings and a yellow belly, the young red-orange. Females reach about 195 cm, and the largest animals approach 270 cm. In 2009 the species was split off from *Corallus caninus*, which today covers only the populations on the Guiana Shield. It requires a large, tall and humid enclosure and an experienced keeper.

Family: Boidae Former name: *Chrysenis batesii* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**120-270 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**180 × 60 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-29 °C**
Basking spot	**30-33 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-26 °C**
Humidity	**65-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**36-60 months**
Litter size	**5-25 young**
Gestation	**180-210 days**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
An adult animal needs an enclosure of at least 180 × 60 × 120 cm (length × width × height), and larger and especially taller is better, as *Corallus batesii* grows larger than *C. caninus*.

TEMPERATURE
Corallus batesii needs even warmth throughout the enclosure and a distinct basking spot. The basking spot, a horizontal branch under the heat source, must be 30-33 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
The humidity must be high and stable, and 65-80 % is a good starting point. Recommendations range from 65-75 % for *Corallus batesii* to 75-90 % for *C. caninus*.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is nocturnal and can manage without UVB, but a weak UVB light gives a more distinct daily rhythm and ensures vitamin D3. The species belongs to Ferguson zone 2, with a UV index of about 2-3 at the basking spot.

FEEDING
Corallus batesii needs whole prey animals. Rats are the best food, from rat pups of 4-6 g for the young up to medium-sized rats of about 175 g for adults.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Corallus batesii is usually calm during the day and more placid than *C. caninus*, but it is not an animal for frequent handling, and young animals are often nervous and defensive.

NATIVE RANGE
Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia.