herpy

SNAKES

Emerald Tree Boa

Corallus caninus

Corallus caninus is a slender, arboreal boa from the Guiana Shield in South America. Adults are light green with white markings, the young red-orange. The species grows to about 120-200 cm. Since 2009 the name has covered only the populations north of the Amazon River, while the animals of the Amazon Basin belong to *Corallus batesii*. The species requires a large, tall and humid enclosure and an experienced keeper.

Family: Boidae Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**120-200 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	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**29-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**75-90%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Live-bearing**
Sexually mature	**36-60 months**
Litter size	**5-20 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.

TEMPERATURE
Corallus caninus needs even warmth throughout the enclosure and a distinct basking spot. The basking spot, a horizontal branch under the heat source, must be 29-32 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
The humidity must be high and stable: 75-90 %. Recommendations range from 65-75 % to 75-90 %, but the species tolerates fluctuating humidity poorly, and stability matters more than the exact figure.

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 caninus needs whole prey animals: mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils, quail and chicks, and rats are the best food.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
Corallus caninus is often nervous and defensive, especially when young, and is not an animal for frequent handling. If it feels threatened, it adopts an S-shaped posture and strikes. The very long front teeth cause deep wounds.

NATIVE RANGE
Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Venezuela and Brazil.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/slanger/corallus-caninus