herpy

SNAKES

## Burmese Python

# *Python bivittatus*

*Python bivittatus* is one of the world's largest snakes, a heavy, calm python from the forests, swamps and grasslands of South-East Asia, with brown, dark-edged blotches on a pale ground colour. Adults measure 300-500 cm, and females are far heavier than males. The species requires a very large enclosure with a pool, 32-34 °C at the basking spot and a great deal of experience, and it can live for more than 20 years.

Family: Pythonidae  Former name: *Python molurus bivittatus*  Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult size | **300-500 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **20-25 years** |
| Active | **At dusk and at night** |
| Lifestyle | **Arboreal and terrestrial** |
| Habitat | **Savanna, rainforest and wetland** |
| Difficulty | **Expert** |

### CARE

| | |
|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **300 × 150 × 150 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **27-31 °C** |
| Basking spot | **32-34 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **26-28 °C** |
| Humidity | **60-70%** |
| Water | **Water section** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 2 |
| Diet | **Vertebrates** |
| Kept | **Singly** |

### BREEDING

| | |
|---|---|
| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Sexually mature | **24-36 months** |
| Clutch size | **12-36 eggs** |
| Incubation | **60-90 days**<br>at 31-32 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

| | |
|---|---|
| CITES | **Appendix II** |
| EU annex | **Annex B** |
| IUCN | **Vulnerable (VU)** |

## Care at a glance

| | |
|---|---|
| THE ENCLOSURE | Size is the species' greatest challenge: most setups are too small. |
| TEMPERATURE | The enclosure must have a gradient. The basking spot must be 32-34 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer, the cool side 27-31 °C and the night 26-28 °C. |
| HUMIDITY AND WATER | The humidity should be about 60 %, with higher values just after misting, measured with a digital hygrometer in the middle of the enclosure. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The species is most active at night and at dusk, but must have a fixed day and night rhythm with about 12 hours of light and 12 hours of dark. |
| FEEDING | *P. bivittatus* is a carnivore and must have whole prey of mammals and birds. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | *P. bivittatus* is calm and seldom aggressive, but an adult animal is stronger than a human and can be life-threatening. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Nepal, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China and Indonesia. |