

Bredl's Python

Morelia bredli



Physical Characteristics

- The edges of mouth of the Bredl's python is lined with heat sensitive pits
- The scales on their back are colored a reddish brown with beige or cream-colored splotches or stripes running down the side and back. These markings continue further along the python's body with a dark lining.
- The scales on their underside are either white or a yellowish color
- Their head is larger in size compared to their slender neck
- Their bodies are rather thick
- The forked tongue of the Bredl's python is blue in color

Size

- Length: 5-8 feet, average 7.2 feet

Lifespan

- Wild: 20-30 years
- Zoos: 30 years

Behaviors

- During the summer months, Bredl's pythons are nocturnal. However, they are diurnal during the spring and autumn, since the nights at that time of year are too cold.
- These arboreal snakes are able to climb shrubs and trees.
- Like all snakes, they will shed their skin as they grow larger.

Diet

- Wild: Bredl's pythons usually eat small mammals, birds and reptiles and even small wallabies. They have also been known to eat domestic cats.
- Zoo: Small to medium rats, chicks
- Bredl's pythons have heat sensitive pits around their mouths. These pits can help them detect their prey.
- Since they don't have venom, Bredl's pythons will instead constrict their prey, squeezing until the prey is incapable of moving before eating it whole.

Reproduction

- Bredl's pythons are oviparous, which means that they lay eggs.
- The female will lay a clutch of eggs, usually between 13 and 47 eggs. She will stay with them to keep them warm and safe from predators until they hatch.
- The eggs will usually hatch in 60 days.

Habitat and Range

- Habitat: deserts, savannas, forests, inland wetlands, rocky outcrops and cliffs
- Range: Central Australia

Conservation

- IUCN Status: Least Concern
- Cane toads have entered the Bredl's python's habitat, so the poison of these toads could pose a danger to the pythons
- Captive bred Bredl's pythons are often used in the pet trade



Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Subphylum: Vertebrata
- Class: Reptilia
- Order: Squamata
- Family: Pythonidae
- Genus: *Morelia*
- Species: *Morelia bredli*

Interesting Facts

- Bredl's pythons are also known as Centralian carpet pythons.
- Bredl's pythons were named after Joe Bredl, an Australian herpetologist
- Due to the strain that breeding takes on female Bredl's pythons in the wild, they only do so every three to four years

References

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