

DARWIN CARPET PYTHON

HABITAT

The Darwin Carpet Python usually lives in forests and woodlands^[1] around Darwin in the Northern Territory, although their range extends across other northern parts of Australia, such as the reaches of Western Australia.^[2] This type of python is also a popular pet snake.^[3]

DIET

They wait for their prey to pass by and then suffocate it through squeezing as they are non-venomous. They eat all kinds of animals, but because they can't chew, they are limited to animals they can swallow in one bite, including small mammals, such as possums, as well as lizards, birds, and bats.^[4]

REPRODUCTION

Their breeding season is between June and May. The females lay an average of 23 eggs per clutch and will remain coiled around the eggs to help keep the eggs warm and protect them from predators.^[5] The young are considered to be independent once they have hatched.^[6]

THREATS

Cane Toads impact their population range as they are highly poisonous, causing death when consumed.^[7] Other threats include predation by feral dogs, feral cats, and humans, as well as habitat loss due to bushfires.^[8]

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

It is illegal to harm or kill any snake unless they threaten life, and you cannot take or interfere with any snake without a permit in all states and territories in Australia.^[9]



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DESCRIPTION

They grow from 2 to 4m,^[10] have medium builds and broad heads, wider than their necks.^[11] They have strong brown, black, and dull gold banded markings, which allows them to camouflage among nature, including logs, leaves, and rocky crevices.^[12]

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Morelia spilota variegata^[13]

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not Listed^[14]

CLASS

Reptiles^[15]

LIFESPAN

Between 20 and 30 years^[16]

POPULATION SIZE

Unknown^[17]

FUN FACT

They got their name because the colours of their scales look like woven carpets.^[18]

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- ^[1] Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), 'Subspecies *Morelia spilota variegata* Gray, 1842', *Australian Government* (4 Feb. 2023), Ecological Descriptors, https://biodiversity.org.au/afd/taxa/Morelia_spilota_variegata, accessed 11 Apr. 2023.
- ^[2] DCCEEW, 'Subspecies *Morelia spilota variegata* Gray, 1842', Distribution.
- ^[3] A-Z Animals, 'Carpet Python *Morelia spilota*', *A-Z animals* (24 Apr. 2023), Types of Carpet Pythons, <https://a-z-animals.com/animals/carpet-python/>, accessed 11 Apr. 2023.
- ^[4] Department of Environment and Science (DES), 'Carpet python', *Queensland Government* (6 Oct. 2021), Life history and behaviour, <https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/snakes/carpet-python>, accessed 11 Apr. 2023.
- ^[5] Oakvale Wildlife Park, 'Albino Darwin Carpet Python', *Oakvale Wildlife Park* (2023), Breeding <https://oakvalewildlife.com.au/explore/our-animals/albino-darwin-carpet-python>, accessed 11 Apr. 2023.
- ^[6] DES, 'Carpet python', Life history and behaviour.
- ^[7] Northern Territory Government, 'Carpet Python', *Northern Territory Government* (1 Sep. 2015), Carpet Python, <https://nt.gov.au/environment/animals/wildlife-in-nt/carpet-python>, accessed 6 Apr. 2023.
- ^[8] Territory Wildlife Park, 'Darwin Carpet Python', *Territory Wildlife Park* (2020), Threats, <https://territorywildlifepark.com.au/our-animals/darwin-carpet-python>, accessed 11 Apr. 2023.
- ^[9] Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, 'Snakes', *ACT Government* (18 Apr. 2023), Protected By Law, <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/nature-conservation/wildlife-management/snakes>, accessed 24 May 2023.
- ^[10] Territory Wildlife Park, 'Darwin Carpet Python', Length.
- ^[11] Oakvale Wildlife Park, 'Albino Darwin Carpet Python', Description.
- ^[12] DES, 'Carpet python', Habitat and distribution.
- ^[13] Territory Wildlife Park, 'Darwin Carpet Python', Scientific name.
- ^[14] SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, 'Carpet Python', *SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment* (2023), Fast Facts, <https://seaworld.org/animals/facts/reptiles/carpet-python/>, accessed 12 Apr. 2023.
- ^[15] Integrated Taxonomic Information System, '*Morelia spilota variegata*', *Integrated Taxonomic Information System* (n.d.), Taxonomic Hierarchy, https://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=635070#null, accessed 12 Apr. 2023.
- ^[16] Oakvale Wildlife Park, 'Albino Darwin Carpet Python', Lifespan.
- ^[17] SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, 'Carpet Python', Fast Facts.
- ^[18] A-Z Animals, 'Carpet Python *Morelia spilota*', 4 Carpet Python Amazing Facts.