



Carpet python

Morelia spilota

Description

The carpet python is one of the most well known snakes in Australia mostly due to its popularity as a pet. There are seven sub-species of carpet python in Australia, with the Northern Territory form *Morelia spilota variegata* differing from others by being a white to beige or brown colour. In regional areas it has tan to dark brown patterns or bands with black edgings. This sub-species is usually slightly smaller than the nominate form growing on average about 2.5m. This species is non-venomous and is an important predator that kills prey via constriction.

Distribution

This species has a large distribution covering most of Australia, except the arid centre and some western regions. The carpet python generally lives in trees and is mostly nocturnal however they can be found basking in the sun during the day.

Regional Abundance

Darwin - Common *M. spilota variegata*, Katherine - Rare *M. spilota variegata*
Alice Springs - Common but different sub-species *M. spilota bredli*.

Diet and Reproduction

Their diet consists of small mammals, bats, birds, lizards and the sub-species in the Northern Territory often take brush tail possums. Females lay 10-50 eggs and once they have hatched the mother no longer cares for them.

NON-VENOMOUS



Chris Peberdy