

Water python

Liasis mackloti

Description

The water python looks similar to the olive python and is an iridescent, dark olive to black python that grows up to 2.5m. The species has a dull to bright yellow underbelly. It is a non-venomous snake that kills its prey via constriction. The water python is primarily nocturnal. The species gets its name due to its semi-aquatic nature and is found within close proximity to water where they often flee to if disturbed.

Distribution

The water python is commonly found throughout tropical north Australia, from Broome, Western Australia, to St Lawrence, Queensland. In the Northern Territory they can occur in extremely high densities in floodplains where they are the major predator. They are mainly found near freshwater swamps, lagoons, creeks and river edges.

Regional Abundance

Darwin - Common, Katherine - Restricted to close proximity near rivers, Alice Springs - Not found.

Diet and Reproduction

The diet of the water python includes a variety of vertebrates, water birds and their eggs and even juvenile freshwater crocodiles. This species produces up to 22 eggs in a clutch.

NON-VENOMOUS



Chris Peberdy