

RETICULATED PYTHON

Malayopython reticulatus reticulatus
Schneider, 1801



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Family: Pythonidae

2 other subspecies



APPENDIX II

COMMON



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: The longest snake species on earth, reaching a maximum length around 10 m. Long and broad head with heat-sensory pits on labials. Brown diamond-shaped back markings, edged with black. Very intricate markings on flanks.

Range: The species occurs in South-east Asia, from Pakistan and India, including Nicobar Islands, to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Philippines.

Habitat : Rainforests, woodlands and grasslands, often near rivers or lakes.

Behavior: The species is mostly nocturnal. Very good climber and swimmer. It feeds on big mammals, birds and reptiles. Oviparous, lays up to 80 eggs in a single clutch.

Status in the wild: The species has been able to colonize remote islands because of its swimming capabilities. Declines occur because of overtrapping and persecution.

In captivity: The species is very common in zoos around the world and has regularly been bred in captivity for years. Nominate subspecies, when pure, is the commonest around the world and is kept in a few dozen zoos in Europe.