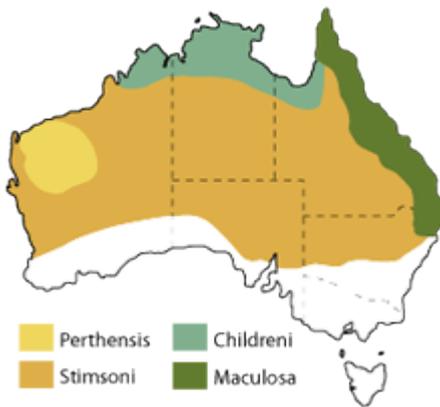




The Children's Python

There are a number of individual species within this group. They include the Children's Python, Stimson's Python, Spotted Python and Pygmy Python.

Natural distribution



This group of species is widespread over northern and arid areas of Australia.

Physical and behavioural characteristics

- grow to a length of 100 - 150 cm
- long lived (15 –20 years)
- non-venomous, relying on constriction to immobilise prey
- nocturnal and mainly active at night.

Environmental requirements for keeping in captivity

- require a reasonably large enclosure
- require a temperature range from 24^oC to 30^oC within the enclosure and a small basking or heated area reaching 35^oC
- require a sheltered area in which to hide
- benefit from branches in which to climb and rest and rock or logs in which to live and hide.

Feeding and nutrition

- all captive snakes are fed frozen rats or mice (thawed before feeding)
- the size of the rats/mice is determined by the size of the snake
- food should be offered every 1-2 weeks if the enclosure is continually heated
- feeding should occur outside of the living enclosure to avoid the snake expecting food every time the enclosure door is opened
- fresh water must always be available.

Considerations when keeping Pythons in schools

- placid and amenable to handling once conditioned
- some children are likely to be afraid of snakes and less likely to engage with them
- must be fed in a container separate from their living quarters.

References

<http://www.burkesbackyard.com.au/factsheets/Others/Childrens-Python/660>

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