

African Rock Python

Scientific Name: *Python sebae*

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Family: Boidae



Can be up to 25 feet in length, but average around 16 to 20 feet. Brown with olive and tan irregular blotching fading to white on the underside. Tan, V shape on the face with no fangs. Uses heat sensing organ in both jaws (infrared) to detect warm-blooded prey.

Range

Africa south of the Sahara, from Senegal east to Ethiopia and Somalia and south to northern Namibia and east to the Indian Ocean

Habitat

Grassland, open forests, and savanna not far from water

Gestation

2-3 months

Litter

Up to 100 eggs

Behavior

The top and bottom jaws are attached to each other with stretchy ligaments so that they can swallow prey whole. They are highly dependent on sources of water and estivate during the hottest and driest parts of the year, remaining deep in burrows made by other animals.

Reproduction

Occurs in the spring. Incubation is 2-3 months. Hatchling are between 18 – 24 inches in length and appear virtually identical to adults, except with more contrasting colors.

Wild Diet

Opportunistic, primarily small rodents