

# Dumeril's Ground Boa

*Acrantophis dumeril's*

CLASS: REPTILIA  
ORDER: Squamata  
FAMILY: Boidae

## STATUS IN WILD

Endangered. Listed on Appendix I by CITES - they cannot be exported from Madagascar for commercial trade. This species is endangered because of habitat destruction, snake skin and pet trade, pollution and food supply loss.

**LENGTH:** Adults up to 6 1/2 ft. (2 meters)

**LIFE SPAN** in captivity: Average 20 years, may live close to 30 years.

**YOUNG:** juveniles

## CHARACTERISTICS

A moderate-sized, heavy bodied species. It has intricate patterns of light and dark dorsal blotches over a light brown or grayish background. Non-venomous.

## RANGE AND HABITAT

Found in south and southwest areas of Madagascar. Savanna woodlands and grasslands predominate this drier region. The species seeks out damp habitats near rivers or streams.

**DIET in WILD:** Small mammals and birds.

**DIET at SPZ:** Rodents

## BEHAVIOUR

Terrestrial, although juveniles climb more than adults. Solitary, secretive, hides during the day. Crepuscular (active in the twilight), nocturnal. Kills prey by constriction.

## REPRODUCTION

A live bearer, giving birth to an average 7 - 9 but can be up to 20 after a 5 to 8 months gestation period. Reproduces once, in winter months. Age of sexual maturity: 3 years. No parental care of young.

## MISCELLANEOUS

This species is popular with hobbyists since it has bred well in captivity. Boas have played a major role in religious activities of tribal people.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Boas & Pythons and Other Friendly Snakes by John Coborn, 1995; Encyclopedia of Snakes by Chris Mattison, 1995

Living Snakes of the World by John M. Mehrtens, 1987

Field Guide to the Amphibians & Reptiles of Madagascar by Frank Claw & Miguel Vences, 1994