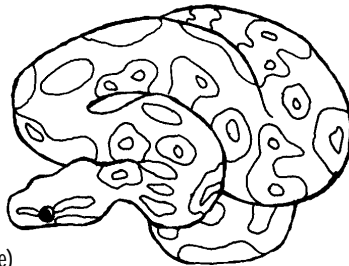


R E P T I L E

ROYAL PYTHON/BALL PYTHON



Scientific Name: *Python regius*

Found in open forests and savannas, this snake can live up to 15 years.

Its length ranges from 3 feet (average)

to 5 feet. It is a constrictor, which means it seizes food with its backward-pointing teeth, then coils its body around the prey and squeezes until the prey eventually suffocates.



STATUS: Common



DIET IN THE WILD: Small mammals and birds.

ZOO DIET: Mice.



FUN FACTS: In contrast to most other snakes, the ball python does not defend itself by striking quickly and biting. Instead, it coils into a ball and hides its head among the loops. Thus, very little body surface is exposed to an enemy.