



**AMAZON
TREE BOA**
SQUAMATA
Family: Boidae
Genus: *Corallus*
Species: *hortulanus*



Range: South America in southern Colombia (east of the Andes), southern Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Amazonian Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.
Habitat: arboreal regions of tropical rainforests, also dry savannas or forests, common along rivers
Niche: nocturnal, arboreal (canopy and understory), carnivorous
Wild diet: small mammals, some smaller birds, lizards and frogs
Zoo diet: mice and rats
Life Span: 15 years wild, ~ 20 years captivity
Sexual dimorphism:
Location in SF Zoo: South American Tropical Rainforest and Aviary

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

Garden tree boas or Amazon tree boas are non-venomous, arboreal constrictors. These boas have a long, slender laterally compressed body and prehensile tail with a broad, elongate, distinct head. This species exhibits an immense variety of colors and patterns. The basic color can be anywhere from black, brown, or gray, to any shade of red, orange, or yellow. Some are no pattern, others are marked by speckles, bands, or saddles with rhomboid or chevron shapes. The head has five dark stripes that extend from the eyes. They have small, claw-like remnants of vestigial hindlimbs in the cloacal region.

Weight: 14 – 21 oz
Length: 5 – 6.5 ft
Width:

Amazons are considered aggressive with quick defensive strikes and a long reach. They have long recurved teeth with highly developed front teeth that are proportionately larger than those of any other non-venomous snake. Most members of the family Boidae possess infrared sensitive receptors in labial pit organs. Amazon tree boas have particularly large infrared pits, which allow them to sense heat well. Amazon tree boas are sensitive to vibrations and have good chemoreception, which is often used in communicating reproductive information. They have a reflective membrane that results in eyeshine at night.

STATUS & CONSERVATION

This taxon has not yet been assessed for the IUCN Red List.

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

They are solitary and may be active at night and during the day. Amazon tree boas hunt at night using their infrared sensitivity or during the day using vision. They are typically ambush hunters, sitting on a branch with the front part of their body hanging in an S-shaped curve from the branch. They can strike at prey, which are a surprising distance from themselves. Prey is often pushed off the tree branch as they are struck, in which cases the snake will gather the body in several of its coils. They have been observed active on the ground.

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

Little is known about their mating behavior. Ovulation occurs in the female several weeks after copulation. These snakes are ovoviviparous and give birth to live young. After the young are born they are immediately independent of their mother. Male Amazon tree boas do not contribute to the care of their young.

Incubation: 6 – 8 mos # of young: 4 – 14	Sexual Maturity: 3 yrs Weight at birth: Length at birth: 17 inches
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MISCELLANEOUS

There are two subspecies of Amazon tree boa. *Corallus hortulanus hortulanus* occurs in the Guianas, Amazonia, and south-eastern Brazil (to the Tropic of Capricorn). *Corallus hortulanus cooki* is found in southern Central America, northern Columbia, northern Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, and the southern Windward Islands (St. Vincent and the Grenada Bank).

The Amazon Tree Boa is one of a few snakes that can be located by their eye shine.

Sources:

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Living Snakes of the World, © 1987, John M. Mehrtens, Sterling Publishing Co.

Boas and Pythons of the World, © 2007, Mark O'Shea, Princeton

http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Corallus_hortulanus/

<http://www.herpcenter.com/reptile-caresheets/amazon-tree-boa.html>

<http://eol.org/pages/795288/details>