

WOMA PYTHON



Common name

Woma python

Scientific name

Aspidites ramsayi

Habitat

The woma is widespread throughout arid and semi-arid Australia from coastal Western Australia to western Queensland.

Distribution

In Queensland, the species occurs in the dry subtropics from the Northern Territory border to the Yuleba/Surat/St George area, in the western margins of the Brigalow Belt. In the Brigalow Belt region, this species occurs on black soils and in stony ridge country in brigalow *Acacia harpophylla* woodland and grasslands.

Description

The woma is a large python with an average length of 1.5m and a maximum length of approximately 2.7m. This python is brilliantly patterned with a background colour of glossy yellowish or reddish brown to a pale greenish brown. The Woma also has dark bands on the body and tail. The underside is cream to yellow with several pink or brown blotches.

The small eyes and narrow head (which is barely distinct from its neck) makes the woma look different to other python species.

Importance

This nocturnal species is occasionally seen basking during mild weather. Unlike other pythons, the woma is a ground dweller that seeks shelter in hollow logs, animal burrows or thick herbage during the day. It can also use its head like a shovel to dig and enlarge its burrow. The woma is an egg layer, laying up to 22 eggs per clutch. It incubates and protects its eggs by coiling its body around the clutch continually until they hatch.

Key threats

The woma is threatened by habitat loss due to land clearing and thinning operations, inappropriate road-side management and predation by feral animals such as foxes and cats.

What is being done to help protect and conserve this species?

- Key habitat is being identified for conservation, and guidelines are being developed to protect these areas.
- Management agreements are being negotiated with landholders to protect key habitat and priority areas.
- Monitoring programs are underway in key habitat and priority conservation areas.
- Reptile habitat on the stock route network and shire roadsides and reserves is being protected.
- Government agencies, regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies, industry groups, indigenous groups, landholders and the community are working together to encourage reptile conservation.

Become a woma python champion

- Get involved in community-based on-ground projects and help protect habitat.
- Support pest management activities which seek to address feral animal threats (e.g. pigs, cats, foxes).
- Talk to your friends and family about threats to woma python and what they can do.

HIDE AND SEEK

Can you find the seven woma pythons in the image below?



We live in dense environments and we use our strength to crush our prey against trees rather than coiling around it like most pythons

