

Indian Rock Python

India is home to many unique and fascinating species of wildlife, including the Indian Rock Python, scientifically known as *Python molurus*. This snake species is known for its size, strength, and significance to the ecosystem. In this article, we will discuss the features, habitat, food habits, distribution, importance to the ecosystem, and IUCN status of the Indian Rock Python.

Characteristics	Description
Name	Indian Rock Python
Scientific Name	<i>Python molurus</i>
Colour	Light or dark brown with dark blotches
Length	10-15 feet
Habitat	Grasslands, swamps, forests, and human settlements
Food habits	Carnivorous, feeding on rodents, small mammals, birds, and reptiles
Indian states where it's found	Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala
IUCN status	Least Concern

Features

The Indian Rock Python is a large and heavy-bodied snake, with an average length of 10-15 feet and weight ranging from 15 to 90 kg. Its skin is typically light or dark brown with dark blotches, and it has a distinctive triangular head. Indian Rock Pythons are non-venomous and are known for their strength, making them one of the strongest snakes in the world. They are also excellent swimmers and climbers, allowing

them to navigate different terrains with ease.

Habitat and food

The Indian Rock Python is a widely distributed species that can be found in various habitats, such as grasslands, swamps, forests, and even human settlements. They are found in the Indian subcontinent, including India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The Indian Rock Python is a carnivorous snake and feeds on a variety of animals, including rodents, small mammals, birds, and reptiles.

Where is it found in India

The Indian Rock Python is found in various parts of India, including the Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, and the Himalayas. They are commonly found in the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, among others.

Importance to ecosystem

The Indian Rock Python plays an important role in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem by controlling the population of several prey species. As a top predator, it helps control the population of rodents and other small mammals, which can become pests and cause damage to crops and other vegetation. Additionally, they are often revered in Indian culture and are considered to have spiritual significance.

IUCN status

The Indian Rock Python is classified as a species of “Least Concern” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). However, their populations are threatened by habitat loss due to deforestation, urbanization, and agricultural

activities. They are also hunted for their skin and meat, which are in high demand in the illegal wildlife trade.

Conclusion

The Indian Rock Python is an important and fascinating species of snake that plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem. Its unique features, such as its size and strength, make it an interesting species to observe. Protecting their natural habitats and ensuring their survival is crucial to maintaining the overall biodiversity of the country. Furthermore, awareness and education about the significance of Indian Rock Pythons can go a long way in preventing their decline and preserving their populations.