

Rice Paddy snake care sheet



PROFILE

Common Name: Rice paddy snake, yellow belly water snake

Latin Name: *Hipsiscopus plumbea*

Native To: Indonesia

Size: 2-2.5ft

Life Span: 10+ Years

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Environment:

Found throughout Indonesia and southeast asia the yellow belly water snake is never far from water. Slow moving streams and ponds and, of course, rice paddies.

Vivarium Size:

We recommend a minimum size vivarium of 24x15x15 with plenty of places to hide and a large body of water.

Substrate:

Substrate should be a good quality earthmix with opportunity for the snake to dry itself out completely. There should be a large body of water for the snake to swim and completely submerge in.

Food and Water:

In the wild rice paddy snakes will take a varied diet including fish, amphibians, tadpoles and large invertebrates. This can be replicated in a captive setting and pinkie mice have been introduced and taken readily.

A large body of water for the snake to swim and submerge in is vital as is opportunity for the snake to dry itself out completely and stay hidden.

Heat/Light Requirements:

Like the majority of other snakes, rice paddy snakes do not require UV radiation. More often than not, the rice paddy will hide away from it, due to them being nocturnal animals.

Rice paddy snakes require 24 hour heating with one side of the vivarium being the designated 'cool' end and the other being the 'hot' or 'basking' area. This can be achieved by placing a heat source on one side of the vivarium.

As they are cold blooded animals, their body temperature is the same as that of the environment around them and therefore rice paddy snakes will move around the vivarium until they find their optimum temperature. They will naturally use the water to regulate their temperature. At night we recommend a temperature drop of about 3-6°C.

Below are the ideal temperatures for your rice paddy snake, all of which can be thermostatically controlled:

Day (cool end): 24 - 26°C

Day: (warm end): 30 - 35°C

Night: 24 - 27°C

Please note that this care sheet is only for your basic husbandry knowledge and that it is always recommended that you do further reading.

FURTHER READING

www.reptilecentre.com

Any Problems?

Give us a ring ASAP on 0121 744 1300

Or email us at shirley_reptiles@live.co.uk

Shirley Aquatics
Becketts Farm
Alcester Road
Wythall
Birmingham
B47 6AJ

