

Carpet Python *Morelia spilota*

When to look:

Year round. Look during the day when the sun is out to catch them basking

Variable in colour and pattern, however often have pale, dark-edged blotches, stripes or cross bands). Seven geographical subspecies recognised

Size: up to 3 metres

Small scales present on top of head; more than 3 scales between the eyes

A row of deep heat-sensing pits along the lower jaw

Similar species:

In Northern Territory: Children's python - similar markings but significantly smaller (75cm). Banded tree snake (Night tiger) distinctive brown/red bands (hence "tiger"), slender body with bulging eyes. Black headed python - distinctive banded pattern and black head.

In Queensland: Amethystine Python (Scrub Python) have larger scales on their head and an iridescent purple sheen. Spotted Python are much smaller (100 - 140 cm)



Image of M. s. mcdowelli and M. s. cheynei (inset) courtesy of Stephen Zozaya