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Arabian sand boa care sheet

Jayakar's Sand Boa Introduction The Arab Sand Boa a small sand boa limited to the Arabian Peninsula. It rarely exceeds 16 inches (40 cm.) in length. In overall coloration, it is similar to the more familiar East African sand boa, *E. colubrinus*, with a black or brown pattern on an orange/yellow background. The pattern is thinner and more irregular than that of the *colubrinus* and the darker spots can form irregular bands across the snake's surface. In some parts of its range, Arab sand boas are much darker and almost unist their way, a condition similar to that observed in some E.E. populations. *E. conicus* and *E. colubrinus*. The Arab sand boas are one of the true sands of *Eryx* and have their eyes fixed on the head rather than the sides. This allows them to see out of the sand without having to have their entire head exposed. A similar, though less pronounced, adaptation is observed in *E. miliaris*. The Arabian sand boa is active largely at night in its desert house, where it hunts lizards and small rodents. Arab sand boas in captivity Until recently, Arab sand boas were not widely available in captivity for several reasons. They come from a part of the world that has not exported a large number of native animals for the pet trade. The few that have been exported have been problematic captives as they are a rather small species of *Eryx* and getting them to take mice in captivity has been a frustrating process. While snakes born in captivity are usually much easier to feed, jayakari born in captivity are babies so small that they have trouble eating even the smallest pinkies. Recently, this beautiful species has become more available to the amateur. Interestingly, with the increase in the number of jayakari in captivity, we discovered that this species lays eggs! This would make him the only member of the *Eryx* genus known to do so. This may give new impetus to the suggestion that this species belongs to its own monotypical genus (or subgenus), *Pseudogongylophis*. Here are some amazing pictures of some baby jayakari hatched from eggs. This may be the first documented case of a sand boa producing eggs and these are most likely the first photographs ever taken of the jayakari outbreak. I am deeply indebted to Dr. Rick Staub for providing these photos for us to see! Go to the Indian Sand Boa Return to the Genus *Eryx* Back to the homepage of Sand Boa Chris Harrison updated on October 19, 2001 Darren BoydKenyan Sand Boa The Kenyan sand boa has a dedicated and growing audience due to its manageable size, passive personality and simple need for captive care. If you prioritize the health and well-being of reptiles, quality breeding and Appropriate supplies for snakes, this could be the snake for you! The Kenyan sand boa is also called the East African sand boa, although enthusiasts have largely adopted the Kenyan for the common name. Kenya Sand Boa Availability Boas Kenyans Bred in Captivity easy to locate. Reptile breeders, pet shops and online reptile shops are good sources for finding Kenyan sand boas. The natural color of Kenyan sand boas is beautiful as it is, but there are also plenty of color morphs to choose from. Some of the morphs available for Kenyan sand boas include albino, anerythristic, snow, paradox, striped, tiger and others. Kenya Sand Boa Size The Kenyan sand boa is a small boa, with females reaching just over 2 feet in length. Male Kenyan sand boas tend to be smaller than females, rarely exceeding 20 inches in length. Kenyan sand boas have a heavy and robust body. Kenyan sand boas can live 20 years or more. How long does the Kenyan sand boa live? Although the captive requirements of the Kenyan sand boa are nominal, they may require a long-term commitment, as there are reports of Kenyan sand boas more than 30 years of captivity. I have two Kenyan sand boas in my collection that have been with me for almost 20 years, and they were both at least 2 years old when I acquired them. From this writing, one of them is still actively breeding, but its production has slowed down in recent years, and I intend to remove it from the breeding program. Kenya Sand Boa Enclosure The Kenyan sand boa appeals to many keepers because of its minimal space requirements. Even the largest female Kenyan sand boa can be comfortably housed in a 10-gallon reptile terrarium with a secure lid, or a similar sized enclosure. A plastic storage container of appropriate dimensions, as well as air holes, will also work well in a heated shelf. Shelves should be well equipped with little space above the top of the individual container, because Kenyan sand boas can easily push the lid out of a plastic container. For reptile terrariums, you can use Zilla cage clamps and locks to avoid escaping. If a terrarium with screen cover is used for the Kenyan sand boa, I recommend using a heating pad under one side of the cage (like the Zilla thermal mat), left on 24/7, with an incandescent air lamp device during the day, to heat the air in the cage. The hot spot under the light should be about 95 degrees Fahrenheit and the cooler side of the enclosure should be about 80 degrees. A drop in the mid-1970s at night is acceptable. This can be measured using reptile thermometers. I kept the Kenyan sand boas collectively, without any problems, but separating them for feeding is always recommended. I only did this with one male and one female, or two females. Male Kenyan sand boas should not be housed together. Given the propensity of the Kenyan sand boa to dig, habitat accessories should be minimal. Heavy rocks should be avoided unless they are firmly attached to the enclosure. If a Kenyan sand boa burrows under heavy rocks and causes a mini-avalanche, it could result in injury or even death of the snake. Despite its small size, the Kenyan sand boa can be very destructive to your interior decoration, so the decoration does not need to be excessive. Decorative branches can be a nice touch, but they are not necessary. During my more than 20 years working with Kenyan sand boas, I never remember seeing a Kenyan sand boa trying to climb. Kenyan sand boas are terrestrial creatures that prefer to spend most of their time underground. Kenyan sand boa substrate Many people naturally assume that the only substrate choice for Kenyan sand boa is sand. The truth is that the Kenyan sand boa can be kept on a variety of reptile bedding, including aspen bedding, coconut mulch, playing sand and even newspaper. I kept and raised Kenyan sand boas on all these materials. I recommend staying away from gravel, corn cob bedding and, for all reptiles, cedar shavings. What do Kenyan sand boas eat for food? The Kenyan sand boa has a strong appetite for live reptile food, especially mice. Kenyan sand boas babies generally prefer live pink mice to begin with, but with maturity, they almost always switch to frozen/thawed prey. Even with dead food, the prey is usually tightened. I use 12-inch metal pliers to give thawed mice to my snakes. Adult male Kenyan sand boas will accept a large hopper mouse, and an adult female Kenyan sand boa can handle a giant mouse. Males tend to eat less frequently than females, although there are always exceptions. Some of my males will eat whenever they get the chance. I offer food to female Kenyan sand boas every week and to males every 10 to 14 days. The Kenyan sand boas that spill often hit and tighten their meal, but abandon it. For this reason, I do not offer food to Kenyan sand boas during their delivery cycle. Photos © TheReptileRainforest.com female Kenyan sand boas can eat a jumbo-sized mouse once a week. Males eat large hopper mice every 10 to 14 days. Kenya Sand Boa Water A sturdy ceramic bowl, like the sparkling dish, is a good choice as a water dish for a Kenyan sand boa. A light plastic water dish will be easily pushed, which could soil the environment. The only time the cage should have high humidity is during the delivery cycle of the Kenyan sand boa. High humidity is important during the shed cycle to ensure that all skin peels off safely. A damp skin box is rarely used, so I prefer to use a good old-time spray bottle. It is also much easier to increase in a plastic bin only in an outdoor environment, such as a terrarium with screen cover. You can measure humidity with reptile hygrometers. Kenya Sand Boa Handling and Temperament Most of the Kenyan sand boas I have worked with have been tempered. Some Kenyan sand boa specimens I met were more feisty than normal, although they tried to squirm rather than actually bite. Not being aware of the rapid reaction of feeding the Kenyan sand boa is a way to land an accidental bite. Choose a Kenyan sand boa in the middle of its body, giving the snake a chance to realize it's Lunch. If you approach a Kenyan sand boa from above, nearly a third before its body, it may assume that you are food and knock at you. A bite from a Kenyan sand boa is no more serious than a scratch from a house cat, to put it in perspective, but it can still be painful for you and traumatic for the snake, and for these reasons a bite should be avoided. Darren Boyd is a professional musician, herpetoculator and troublemaker. His reptile breeding and education business, The Reptile Rainforest, has been in operation since 1995. www.TheReptileRainforest.com see archived comments Comments

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