

Species of the Month 7/2023 || Reticulated Python

7 July 2023 || TO NUS Community

The longest snake species in the world, reaching 5-7 m long, the Reticulated Python has a striking zig-zag pattern resembling that of the traditional batik. Given the snake's nocturnal habits, you wonder how it locates its warm-blooded prey in the dark. The answer lies in the heat-sensitive pits on its head!

Let us know what species you would like to see featured by [voting for the next Species of the Month](#).

CAMPUS IN A TROPICAL RAINFOREST

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

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Photo by Tan Robbin

RETICULATED PYTHON

Malayopython reticulatus

APPEARANCE

- The Reticulated Python has a striking pattern comprising a zig-zig arrangement of black lines with yellow-brown patches, resembling the traditional batik pattern on Malay clothing.
- They are the longest snake species in the world, reaching lengths of 5-7 metres in the wild.

HABITAT

- The Reticulated Python is extremely adaptable and is able to live in a variety of habitats, including forests, mangroves and even in urban areas.

Diet

- Given their impressive size, they are capable of consuming large mammals, including small deer and wild boar.
- In Singapore, they primarily consume rodents and as such play a crucial role in managing the population of rats.

FUN FACT

If you look closely at the head of the snake, you can observe its heat-sensitive pits, which allow it to locate warm-blooded prey in the dark. It is an extremely useful tool given the snake's nocturnal habits!

**CATCH US AGAIN NEXT MONTH WITH THE
NEXT FEATURED SPECIES!**