



The African Python's head is marked with a dark arrowhead, fading toward the snout, with a light line down the center. There are dark and light wedge-shaped marks under each eye.



The African Python's body is tan to gray with irregular, dark brown spots down the back and sides. Spots on the back usually connect; spots on the sides may be "C" shaped.



You can tell the difference between "Dead-on-road" (DOR) Burmese (top) and African (bottom) Python specimens by the belly pattern — African Pythons have completely speckled bellies.



# FLORIDA INVADER: African Python

**Report sightings:  
1-888-Ive-Got1  
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The African Python (*Python sebae*), native to sub-Saharan Africa, has been introduced in a small area of Florida on the outskirts of Miami. Recent evidence suggests that this species may be breeding in Florida. This is a large, nocturnal predator that may grow to more than 20 feet long and kills its prey by constriction. In Florida, prey taken by African Pythons is probably similar to that eaten by Burmese Pythons, and could include native mammals, birds, and reptiles. Several threatened and endangered species could be at risk, particularly wading birds such as Wood Storks. African Pythons inhabit marshy lowlands, drier uplands, and urban canals. Females can breed at three to five years of age and lay up to 100 eggs (usually 1-4 dozen). Lifespan is 15-30 years. Although pythons generally shy away from humans, there are reports of African Pythons in their native range attacking humans—this is a potentially aggressive, dangerous species, especially if they are handled or harassed.

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## **Footnote**

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