

Florida Invader: Reticulated Python¹

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Figure 1. Reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*) Credits: Photo by Patrick Lynch, South Florida Water Management District, 2009

Report Reticulated Python sightings immediately:

1-888-IveGot1 (1-888-483-4681; live animals only)

www.IveGot1.org (provide photos if possible)

The Reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*) is native to southeastern Asia. Although escaped or released pets have been found in the wild, this species is not yet 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, Reticulated Pythons could prey on many native mammals and birds. Several threatened and endangered species could be at risk, particularly wading birds such as the Wood Stork. In their native range, Reticulated Pythons inhabit tropical rainforest and depend upon nearby water sources; urban canals and tropical landscaping could provide a hospitable environment for introduced pythons in Florida. Females can breed at two to four years of age and lay up to 100 eggs (usually 2–6 dozen). Lifespan is 15–25 years.

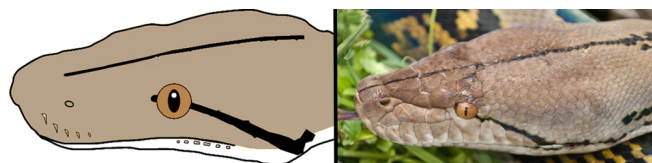


Figure 2. The Reticulated Python's head is tan with a dark center line and thin, dark eye stripes. The eyes are a distinctive reddish color. Credits: Photo by Patrick Lynch, South Florida Water Management District, 2009; Illustration by United States Geological Survey, 2009

Acknowledgments

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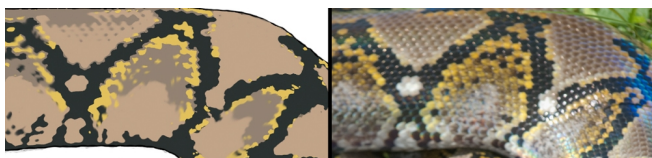


Figure 3. The Reticulated Python's body is tan and marked with a dark, net-like pattern. The net-like pattern is accented with yellow and white markings. Credits: Photo by Patrick Lynch, South Florida Water Management District, 2009; Illustration by Monica E. McGarrity, University of Florida, 2010



Figure 4. The Common Boa, shown here, looks very similar to the Reticulated Python, but has much wider facial bands (not thin eye stripes) and its back is marked with tan, oval markings—like saddles. Credits: Photo by Patrick Lynch, South Florida Water Management District, 2009

USDA-RREA. This document was created as additional reference material for the Introduced Reptile Early Detection and Documentation training program, also known as REDDy. For more information, visit <http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/reddy.shtml>.