

---

## ***Dumeril's Ground Boa Fact Sheet (5/1/94)***

### **Dumeril's Ground Boa** (*Acrantophis dumerili*)

**Description:** Dumeril's ground boa is a medium size snake averaging about four to six feet in length.

**Range:** Dumeril's ground boa is found only in the southwest area of the island of Madagascar off the east coast of Africa.

**Habitat:** Dumeril's ground boas live in an arid region of Madagascar. They can often be found near ponds or streams and hunt on ground level.

**Diet:** Dumeril's boa hunts small mammals, birds, lizards and frogs. It kills its prey by constriction.

**Social Organization:** While few studies of this species in the wild have been done, it appears to be a nocturnal predator. Mating season lasts from March to May, which is fall and early winter in Madagascar. Females bear live young around January.

**Conservation Status:** Dumeril's ground boa is listed as an Appendix I species under CITES and a vulnerable species in the IUCN Red Data Book. There are no estimates of the number that remain in the wild.

**Threats to Survival:** The rapid destruction of Madagascar's habitats is the primary threat to the island's wildlife. This destruction often occurs through land being converted for agricultural or grazing use. Also, ground boas are often killed out fear or superstition while their skins are sometimes sold in Madagascar and abroad.

**Zoo Programs - SSP:** While Dumeril's ground boas have been breeding fairly well in North American zoos since 1978, some genetic lines quickly became over-represented while some were not represented at all. New pairings through the SSP program have almost equalized the representation among the 206 snakes in the program. A new study comparing the genetic make-up of both captive bred and wild ground boas is currently underway. It is hoped that the SSP program can be coordinated with a propagation program in Madagascar.

**Conservation:** AZA institutions have sent representatives to Madagascar to examine conservation problems for the island's reptiles and

amphibians. Plans for a field study of the status of the wild population are under consideration.

©2000 [American Zoo and Aquarium Association](#)