

# Carpet Python

*Morelia spilota*



## Adaptation to environment

- Well camouflaged - olive colour with variable pattern of dark-edged fawn bands, blotches & stripes – like sunlight shining through leaves onto a branch
- Seen on ground, draped across tree branches or coiled in undergrowth
- Large backwardly curved solid teeth for gripping prey
- Uses heat-sensing pits in lower jaw to locate prey (can detect temperature change of one thirtieth of a degree!).

# Feeding relationships

## Where do I live?

Swamp

Mixed Woodland

Mangrove

## What do I eat?

- Warm blooded prey – possums, rats, bats, birds
- Attempts to eat Cane Toads are fatal
- Kills by constriction: suffocating with ever-tightening coils
- Non-venomous.

## What eats me?

- This top predator has few enemies.
- Young and eggs are eaten by birds, other snakes and lizards.

- Length: 2.5 m (to over 3 m)
- Breeding: lays eggs (15 – 47), female coils around eggs & protects them until hatched
- Common in forests and woodlands.