

# South American Tree Boas

(*Corallus hortulanus complex- Henderson et al*)

## CARESHEET

(includes *Corallus cooki*, *ruschenbergerii* and other species of tree boas)

by Graham P. Oxtoby [1987/2000]



'Mustard phase' *corallus hortulanus* (photography by the author)

### ***Housing***

This species can be housed in a confinement measuring 70 cm (length) by 40 (width) by 60 cm (height).

### ***Temperature and humidity***

Temperatures should range between 26-29 degrees C during the day and between 22-24 degrees at night-time. Relative humidity should be between 65-85%. During the mating season, night-time temperatures may drop to an average of 18-22 degrees and spraying should be increased during this 6-10 week period (November to February).

### ***Feeding***

Tree boas are nocturnal arboreals (tree dwellers) and will therefore hunt after dark. This is when they should be fed. Their diet should consist of small mammals (small rats or adult mice) once every 10-14 days. In the wild, they feed on small birds, lizards and small warm-blooded rodents and mammals.

### ***Breeding***

Tree boas mate at the end of the year between December and March. To induce mating, the boas should be cycled - lower night-time temperatures and a marked increase in humidity (by spraying in the morning and evening) for a period of between 6-10 weeks prior to breeding.



**Orange 'Tiger Phase' Corallus hortulanus** (photography by the author)

During this period, daytime temperatures should not be decreased as much as night-time temperatures and the male should be separated from the female. The female should be fed well before breeding attempts are made. Mating will generally occur after cycling and by introducing the male to the female and by restoring temperatures and humidity to normal. The species is live-bearing and after successful matings, the young are born 6-8 months later (August/September/October), but sometimes a little later in the year if matings take place in February, March or April.

*Offspring*



**Juvenile *Corallus hortulanus*** (Photography by the author)

For more details on this species: <http://www.coralluscaninus.info> and <http://www.corallus.com>