

# “Lemon” the Burmese Python

## General Burmese Python Information

### Scientific Name

*Python molurus bivittatus*

### Size/Weight/Life Span

The Burmese python is one of the worlds largest snakes. The current record held by a Burmese python in Illinois at 27 feet in length. Burmese pythons can easily reach 200 pounds and some have topped 400 pounds. They continue to grow throught life. Females are larger than males. These pythons live 20+ years in captivity.



### Range

Rain forest areas of Southeast Asia such as Burma, Thailand, China, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

### Diet

Appropriately sized birds and mammals.

### Breeding

Females lay clutches of 12-36 eggs in early spring. The female will remain with the eggs for 2 months to control temperature until they hatch.

### Population Status

The Burmese python is considered a threatened species due to loss of habitat and hunting to support the leather trade. Though on the decline in their native countries, the Burmese python is actually on the rise in Florida where it is considered an invasive species. Many people buy young pythons thinking they are good starter snakes. Within a few years they can grow to be 10 feet long and weigh nearly 50 pounds. Sometimes when owners decided they can no longer handle these snakes they release them in the wild.

### About Lemon

Lemon is estimated at 15 years old and was donated to the GNC over a decade ago. Lemon shares a large exhibit in our museum office with a boa constrictor named Esmeralda. He lives on a diet of rats once a week. Lemon is an albino, so unlike a normal Burmese python whose coloration is brown, he is white with yellow spots from which he gets his name. Lemon is a very well behaved snake and doesn't mind being handled by numerous kids at a time.



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