

**RANGE**

Found only on the Island of Aruba, off the coast of Venezuela.

**HABITAT**

Tropical desert areas

**SIZE**

Moderately sized. Adults get no longer than ~2 ½ feet.

**LIFE EXPECTANCY**

15 to 20 years

**REPRODUCTION**

Mating season is between September and January. Males reach sexual maturity in four years; females in five. After a gestation time of four months, females give birth to between five and fifteen live young at a time.

**DIET**

**Wild:** Small rodents, birds and lizards

**BEHAVIOR**

- These snakes are very laid back and tend not to bite unless provoked.
- The males will fight for the attention of females. Two males will intertwine the upper portion of their bodies and try to push each other down.

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

- This heavy-bodied pit viper can be a variety of colors ranging from white to apricot, or brown to slate blue. Its skin looks like it has been dusted with powder. There are diamond-shaped markings from the head to the tail.
- They have no natural predators on the island.

**STATUS**

- These animals are critically endangered. It is estimated that there are only 230 left in the wild. Habitat destruction for resorts is a main cause of endangerment for these animals although they are also caught and sold into the pet trade. Goats have also be introduced and have "wreaked havoc" on the vegetation.
- In 1984 the AZA Aruba Island rattlesnake Species Survival Plan (SSP) was developed. Field research is carried out to determine what factors affect this species' survival in order to best inform conservation efforts. Also, a public relations campaign has been started to change local people's perceptions of this venomous snake. Captive breeding has also been started in zoos associated with the SSP program, to increase population numbers and the genetic health of this threatened snake.

**REFERENCES**

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aruba\\_Island\\_Rattlesnake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aruba_Island_Rattlesnake)
- <http://www.scz.org/animals/r/airsnake.html>
- [http://www.arkive.org/species/GES/reptiles/Crotalus\\_unicolor/more\\_info.html](http://www.arkive.org/species/GES/reptiles/Crotalus_unicolor/more_info.html)



photo: Shaun Ring Photography

Order:	<b>Squamata</b>
Family:	<b>Viperidae</b>
Genus:	<b>Crotalus</b>
Species:	<b>horridus</b>