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Baron' s racer care sheet

By Taylor Schoen Baron's Green Racers is found in South America and has been collected from Northern Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia. The Gran Chaco region of Argentina, a semi-arousal, sparsely populated lowland, has been reported as the center of their range. (Sanchez, et al., 2014) Baron's green racers are a strictly arboreal species and inhabit savannas, tropical and subtropical forests. (Sanchez, et al., 2014) Baron's green racers are a medium-sized snake and can reach up to 2 m in length, making them the largest species within the genus *Philodryas*. They have a slender body, narrow head and relatively long tail. Green is the most common color among Baron's green racers, but blue and brown varieties can also be found. A brown variety inhabits the northern parts of Argentina and is known as *Philodryas baroni* var. *fuscoflavescens*. The eyes of Baron's green racers are less than a third the snout length and have a round pupil. The top of the head comes to a prominent point made from expanding rostral scales that develop more in men than in women, but occur in both sexes. There are 21 or 23 rows of smooth, single-pitched scales. Some specimens display two longitudinal black lines that pass through the eyes laterally and stretch from the rostrum through the anterior third of the body. The upper lip is white and the ventral body surface is often a greenish white. Baron's green racers are opisthogyphous, with their fangs located in the back of the mouth. There are several morphological features of Baron's green racers that appear to be well adapted to these snakes' habitat choice and activity patterns. A long tail and slender body are common properties of arboreal snakes as these functions allow for rapid and balanced movement through an arboreal habitat. Green racers are also well camouflaged among tree branches. Their green color is beneficial, as it allows these diurnal snakes to remain cryptic for both predators and prey. There is little-publicized data on sexual dimorphism in *P. baroni*, however, closely related arboreal species such as *P. olfersii* display dimorphism in body size. Females of *P. olfersii* tend to have a greater body length than males, possibly increasing reproduction potential while remaining slim enough to successfully navigate an arboreal habitat. Similar patterns have been reported in *P. baroni* by herpetoculturalists. (Boulenger, 1896; Hartmann and Marques, 2005; Sanchez, et al., 2014) ectothermal bilateral symmetry venom The mating system of Baron's green racers is not referenced in the literature, but studies on related species have indicated that several mating opportunities can occur within one breeding season. Whether or not these mating events are monogamous, polyandrous, polygynous or polyandrous or not is unspecified. (Mesquita, et al., 2013) Baron's green racers are far-welcomed. Herpetoculturalists reported that women would produce larger than 20 eggs per clutch, but the koppelaaargroote is 10. Unfortunately, there are currently no published field studies that exceed the topic of their reproductive cycle. Perhaps distractions can be drawn from a more often studied arboreal relative who shares a home series with *P. baroni*, *P. olfersii*. *P. olfersii* has been reported to ovulate for about 3 months of the year between November-January, but reproducing individuals of both sexes have been collected the year-long time. Clutch size in this species ranged between 4 and 11 eggs, but there may be potential for multiple mating events and multiple clutches throughout the reproductive season. Males experience a period of reduced activity during the colder months of the year. Baron's green racers return to communal nesting places every year. (South American Green Snake, 2015; Mesquita, et al., 2013) Women invest in resources for their eggs, but little additional information about parental investment is available in the literature. Pre-fertilization providing the protection of pre-hatching/ birth supply protection No information about longevity in Baron's green racers is reported in the literature. Baron's green racers are diurnal and peak activity has been reported in the warmer and wetter months, especially in autumn. They are reported to be less aggressive than other members of the genus *Philodryas*, but can still flush and repeatedly flush and strike if threatened. If threatened, Baron's green racers are also known to skew out a foul-smelling substance from the cloaca in defence. (South American Green Snake, 2015; Leynaud, et al., 2008) arboreal diurnal motile edentary Home Range Home range size is not reported in the literature. Like other lizards, Baron's green racers have sharp eyesight that they use to capture prey. They also feel chemicals in the air with their tongues. Forms of communication are not reported in the literature for this species. Visual tactile acoustic chemical Baron's green racers are carnivores and their diet consists mainly of arboreal frogs, lizards and small mammals. Both venom and poison are used to subdue prey items. Cannibalism of immature individuals by larger members of the species was also reported. (South American Green Snake, 2015; Hartmann and Marques, 2005) carnivores eat earthy vertebrate mammals of amphibian reptiles Baron's green racers are cryptically colored as their green color provides camouflage in the leaves. There is no information available about the predators of *P. baroni*. (Hartmann and Marques, 2005) However, no information is available about the ecosystem role of Baron's green racers, but based on their diet it can be declined that they are an important common predator. Baron's green racers became popular in the exotic pet trade. They are owned and bred by people around the world. (Sanchez, et al., 2014) While reportedly non-aggressive, Baron's green racers have bitten and killed people. No human deaths due to a green racer bite have been recorded, but bites should be considered medically significant and treated by a medical professional. The bite symptoms include pain, swelling, bleeding, and lesions on the affected area. (Sanchez, et al., 2014) injuring people Baron's green racers are considered the least concerned by the IUCN and are not on any lists of endangered or threatened animals. Taylor Schoen (author), Michigan State University, James Harding (editor), Michigan State University, Tanya Dewey (editor), University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Neotropical life in the southern part of the New World. In other words, Central and South America. acoustic use sound to communicate arboreal reference to an animal living in trees; tree climbing. bilateral symmetry with body symmetry so that the animal can be divided into one plane into two mirror image halves. Animals with bilateral symmetry have dorsal and ventral ends. Synonymorphine of the Bilateria. carnivores an animal that primarily eats meat chemical uses odors or other chemicals to communicate cryptic with markings, color, shapes, or other characteristics that cause an animal to be camouflaged in its natural environment; to be difficult to see or otherwise detect. diurnal active during the day, 2. lasting for one day. ectothermic animals that need to use heat obtained from the environment and behavioral adjustments to regulate body temperature iteroparous offspring are produced in more than one group (litter, clutches, etc.) and over several seasons (or other periods hospitable for reproduction). Iteroparous animals must by definition survive over several seasons (or periodic condition changes). motile with the ability to move from one place to another. indigenous range the area in which the animal is found naturally, the region in which it is endemic. oviparous reproduction in which eggs are released by the female; development of offspring occurs outside the mother's body. pet deals with the business of buying and selling animals for people to keep in their homes as pets. rainforest rainforests, both moderate and tropical, are dominated by trees often forming a closed roof with little light reaching the ground. Epiphytes and climbing plants are also abundant. Precipitation usually does not limit, but can be somewhat seasonal. oath-indulgence remains in the same area sexual reproduction that includes combining the genetic contribution of two individuals, a male and a female tactile use touch to communicate earthly life on the ground. tropical the region of the Earth that surrounds the equator, from 23.5 degrees north to 23.5 degrees south. poisonous an animal that has an organ that can inject a toxic substance into a wound (for example, scorpions, jellyfish and rattlesnake). Visual uses sight to communicate all year-year-old breeding takes place throughout the year 2016. Baron's green racer *Philodryas baroni* (On-line). Retrieved 04 May 2016 at Philodryas baroni Mount 1895 (On-line). Retrieved 02 May 2016 at . 2015. South American Green Snake (On-line). Retrieved 04 May 2016 at . Boulenger, G. 1896. Catalogue of the snakes in the British Museum. London: Taylor and Francis. Hartmann, P., O. Marques. 2005. 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