

Bothrochilus papuanus (Papuan Olive Python) Keratophagy

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BOTHROCHILUS PAPUANUS (Papuan Olive Python). **KERATOPHAGY.** *Bothrochilus papuanus* is now known to exhibit ophiophagictendencies both in the wild (O'Shea 1988. Herp. Rev. 19(2):36) and in captivity (Boos 1983. ASRA Journal 2(1):28; B. W. Tryon, pers. comm.). During July 1990 a large specimen (2 m+), in the process of sloughing its skin while maintained in a relatively restricted glass aquarium at the National Museum of Papua New Guinea, was observed to undergo ecdysis and then devour a section of its own sloughed skin. The snake was healthy and well fed so such behavior may suggest that this species is potentially cannibalistic.

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