

Response of Python Bivittatus Snake Keepers to the Regulation System for Life Protection

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Abstract. Indonesia has many types of animals, both protected animals. Their numbers are starting to be small and also unprotected animals because their numbers are still large in nature. However, these animals will gradually become extinct if there is no regulatory system that regulates the existence of these animals. Therefore, the government has issued various regulations regulating the existence of these animals. The purpose of this study was to determine the response of python bivittatus snake keepers to the Government Number 7 of 1999 and Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation number P.20 / MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1 /6/2018. The research method used is qualitative by using participatory observation techniques in data collection. This research was conducted from September 2019 to March 2020. The results of this study indicate that the attitude of the python molurus bivittatus snake keepers towards the existence of this animal protection regulation system does not affect the hobby of reptile lovers in maintaining this type of snake, even these keepers do not only keep them, but they also start to breed these types of python bivittatus snakes. This study concludes that the animal protection regulatory system has not been able to lead the public to awareness not to keep python bivittatus because there are still many who maintain and breed this type of snake. But on the one hand, it can be seen that many keepers of the python bivittatus snake have succeeded in breeding this type of snake..

Keywords: Regulatory system, species extinction, breeding

1 Introduction

Indonesia is the second-largest megadiverse country after Brazil which has some endemic species. This is because geographically we are in a tropical area, so it has biodiversity. This biodiversity includes the genetics of plant and animal species, microorganisms, ecosystems, and ecological processes. According to records, for the number of animal species, there are 300,000 species of wild animals, or about 17% of the world's animals are found in Indonesia [1] [2] [3]. However, knowledge of the fauna in the community is still very lacking, one of which is that knowledge of fauna has not been specifically included in the education curriculum so that from the earliest education we have no provision for sensitivity to stars, even though most people live in Indonesia is very close to these animals.

Public ignorance of the types and behavior of animals in their environment results in these animals being hunted to be consumed, sold, collected, and killed because of this inadequate knowledge so that the existence of some animals has begun to decrease. Therefore, the existence of these animals needs attention from the government in terms of protecting their existence. Currently, there are international legal instruments that regulate the protection of

flora and fauna in the world, namely the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites)*. The purpose of this convention is to protect wild flora and fauna against international trade in wild plant and animal specimens which will lead to the extinction of these plant and animal species [4].

Indonesia entered CITES as its 48th member and it took 12 years to draft Law No. 5 of 1990 concerning the Conservation of Living Natural Resources and Ecosystems is in the process of adopting the provisions of CITES, and it took 9 years to pass the implementation of this Law. The implementing regulations include, among others, Government Regulation No. 7 of 1999 concerning the Preservation of Plant and Animal Species and Government Regulation No. 8 of 1999 concerning Utilization of Wild Plant and Animal Species. With the passage of time and environmental conditions, in 2018 a Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia Number P.20 / MENLHK / SETJEN / KUM.1 / 6/2018 was issued concerning Types of Protected Plants and Animals which officially replaced Government Regulation No. 7 of 1999 concerning Preservation of Wild Animals and Plants in June 2018.

One type of snake protected under the regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia Number P.20/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/6/2018 is a type of python bivittatus or python bodo [5]. Bodo pythons are spread in areas of southeast Asia and are considered to be rare, so they are included in the protected snake category.



Image 1
Python Bivittatus

Although this snake is one of the protected types of snakes, it turns out that there are still many people who keep it. Even the snake keepers have created a special group of bivittatus

python keepers on some social media. In this social media, they share information related to maintenance and buying and selling between fellow members of the group. Thus there is a gap between the regulation of wildlife protection regulations and the conditions in the field, where it turns out that there are still many who maintain and trade against this python bivittatus.

2. Research Purposes

The purposes of writing this article are:

- a. Want to know the response of the bivittatus python keepers related to Law No. 5 of 1990 and Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia Number P.20/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/6/2018
- b. Want to know the implementation of Law No. 5 of 1990 and Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia Number P.20/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/6/2018

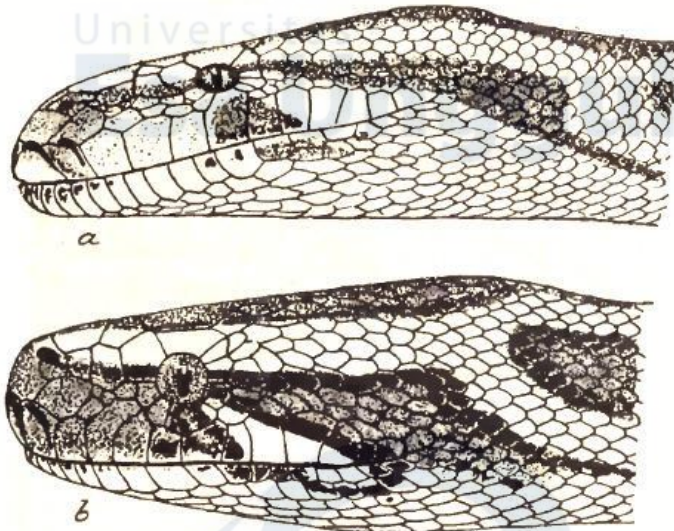
3. Research Methods

The research method used is qualitative using observation participation techniques, interviews, and literature studies in data collection. This research was conducted from September 2019 to March 2020 located in Ciracas East Jakarta. The informant of this study initially had 3 people, but finally the informant who researched only one person (Adi 26 years) because the information provided was sufficiently representative in this study.

4. Hasil dan Pembahasan

To protect flora and fauna in Indonesia, the government has firmly issued a regulation regulating such protection, namely Law No. 5 of 1990 and Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia Number P.20 / MENLHK / SETJEN / KUM.1 / 6/2018. In the attachment to the regulatory system, one of them is by calling the python bivittatus as one of the protected snakes because it is threatened with extinction. The extinction of these animals is partly due to rampant illegal trade carried out by the community [6][7][8]. Besides being traded, the ownership of this snake is also due to the hobby of some people because it is a rare and exotic species that is owned by the python bivittatus [9]. The python molurus bivittatus is a subspecies of the python molurus species. There are other subspecies of the python molurus, namely the python molurus. At first glance, the two are similar but not the same. The difference is in the color scale under the eyes and the shape of the muzzle.

According to the informant, python molurus is a snake that is prone to colds, if the handling is wrong then this cold is a deadly disease for snakes. This is what is the challenge for the keepers to be able to keep this snake alive and healed to continue to be kept. Many keepers managed to cure this cold but some failed to treat the snake during the cold resulting in death. Therefore in its maintenance, the owners of this python molurus bivittatus support each other and share appropriate ways when treating snakes during cold pain one of them is to maintain the temperature of the cage, whereas if already seriously ill, the treatment should be injected with certain drugs. Knowledge of how to inject and dose the snake was obtained by veterinarians who belonged to the group of python keepers molurus bivittatus.



representing the extremes. *a.* Light Python [*P. molurus* (L.)]
b. Dark Python [*P. bivittatus* Schleg.]. Nat. size.

Image 2

Python molurus molurus and python molurus bivittatus

Although not all breeders of the *Molurus bivittatus* snake have succeeded in raising this snake, many carers are not only able to overcome pain in their pets but have also succeeded in breeding this *bivittatus molurus* snake. The baby snakes that hatch after they want to eat, are usually sold to the *python molurus* keeping group. Regarding the existence of a regulatory system that regulates ownership and trade, it violates existing regulations.

According to fathi hanif[6], from some provisions in the legislation that exist can briefly be concluded the type or typology of plant and wildlife crimes, among others:

1. Wildlife Hunting;
2. Illegal Trade/Use of Plants and Wildlife;
3. Illegal possession of Plants and Wildlife;
4. Smuggling of plants and wildlife;
5. Misuse of documents (transport, export quota, etc.).

In committing these crimes, the usual modes of wildlife crime, among others.

1. Illegal trade/use of protected wildlife;
2. Illegal possession of wildlife;
3. Illegal hunting of wildlife;
4. Falsification of documents for wildlife trade;
5. Smuggling of protected animal species;
6. Bribery of the authorities in the wildlife trade;
7. Issuance/misuse of false documents (Letter of Transport of Plants/Animals) related to the ownership/trade of wildlife;
8. Counterfeiting Type (by providing different information information on the packaging)

The rules set out in this regulatory system are also clear, but this does not make these keepers release or hand over their pets to the 'Natural Resources Conservation Center (BKSDA)'. The government's obstacle in preventing trade and ownership of animals at this time is that there is still a lack of public knowledge of the importance of preserving animals, so there is still a blatant trade in animals in Indonesia.[10].

Raids by officers against protected animal keepers are very rare, officers will raid if there are reports from residents regarding the ownership of these protected animals. Raids usually only take place when there are flora and fauna exhibitions and are aimed at sellers only. According to the informant, these keepers should have their own regulations, because not all of these snake breeders are not successful, but instead, they can breed the snake, so that what is feared in the regulatory law is not proven. In fact, these keepers can preserve the python *molurus bivittatus*.

In the community, these *bivittatus* snake keepers help a lot of people whose homes are entered by wild snakes, so residents feel the presence of snake keepers is needed because it helps the residents in the handling of snakes that enter the house and handling if any residents are bitten by snakes. This is what keeps residents from reporting to BKSDA officers because of the ownership of this *bivittatus molurus python*.

However, *bivittatus python* keepers also respect BKSDA officers. These keepers do not want to blatantly get this pet out to public places. So they only keep it indoors. This is because the keepers of the *bivittatus molurus* snake know, otherwise all lay people can keep the snake. When this snake is seen by many people, usually who see this will participate in maintaining this *bivittatus molurus* because the attraction of this *python molurus bivittatus* is able to attract people.

5. Conclusion

From the above discussion, it can be seen that:

- a. The response of the *python bivittatus* snake keepers to the existence of Law No. 5 of 1990 and Regulation of the Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia Number P.20 / MENLHK / SETJEN / KUM.1 / 6/2018, namely by not showing the pets openly to the public, buying and selling and maintenance is limited to group members who keep the snake *molurus bivittatus* because they already know that not everyone can keep this snake.
- b. The implementation of the applicable regulatory system is not optimal, because BKSDA officers only raid flora and fauna exhibition events, rarely raid protected animal keepers to housing residents, raids on residential housing only when there are reports from residents, related to the ownership or sale of animals protected.

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