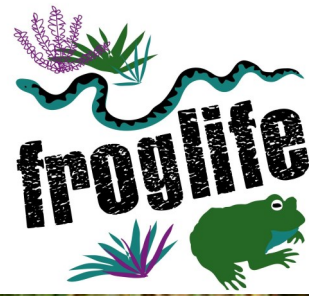


# AESCULAPIAN SNAKE

(*Zamenis longissimus*)



## Identification:

- Adults up to 2 m in length. Average length of 150 cm.
- Long, smooth-scaled body.
- Adults uniformly grey, olive or brownish with some light stippling on scales.
- Juveniles have a well-defined dark stripe along the side of the head and a dark V or U shaped mark on neck.
- Round pupil.



## Distribution:

- Non-native species.
- Native to central and eastern Europe.
- Two colonies known in the UK: Colwyn Bay, North Wales and Regents Park, London.

## Ecology:

- Very adept climber so often seen in trees and bushes.
- Hunts small birds, mammals and reptiles during the day.

## Lifecycle:

- Males are sexually mature when they reach 100 cm and females at 85 cm.
- Breeding occurs in spring, typically mid-May to mid-June.
- Females lay between 5-11 pear-shaped eggs in a moist, warm spot.
- Eggs take 6 to 10 weeks to hatch.

N.B. The release of exotic species into the wild is a criminal offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



INFORMATION  
SHEET

Froglife is a UK wildlife charity committed to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles - working with people, enhancing lives together for a healthier planet. Find out more about our education projects and activities at [www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org)