

The Little Saltwater Crocodile of Hong Kong

Species : *Crocodylus porosus*
Body Length : 1.5m
Weight : 14kg
Age : about 4
Sex : female
Capture Location : Kam Tin River, Nam Sang Wai, Yuen Long



General Information on Saltwater Crocodile

Scientific Name : *Crocodylus porosus*

Common Name : Saltwater crocodile, Estuarine Crocodile

Distribution : Australia, South Asia (e.g. Bangladesh, Burma) and Pacific region (e.g. Papua New Guinea and Palau). Main population can be found in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Habitat : Saltwater crocodile can adapt high salinity waters but it may also be present in freshwater rivers and swamps. It is mainly found in brackish water around coastal areas and in estuaries. Juveniles are more adapted to freshwater environment while the sub-adults usually migrate into more saline areas.

Body Shape and Colour : It is the largest reptile in the world in terms of body size and weight. Adult males may reach sizes of up to 6 or 7 m. In general, it is rare to find a male over 5 m. Adult females are generally smaller, only being 2.5 m to 3 m. A 5 m adult may weight 400 to 500 kg. Juveniles are normally pale tan in colour with black stripes and spots on the body and tail. Mature adults are generally darker. The belly is creamy yellow to white in colour. The tail is more grey on the ventral side near the tip.

Food : Juveniles usually prey on insects, amphibians, crustaceans, small reptiles and fish. Adults are able to take animals with bigger size as food. Large adults may even take much larger prey such as buffalo, domestic livestock, wild boar, or monkeys.