Leucistic Texas Rat Snake *Pantherophis obsoletus lindheimeri*

Most Commonly Used Name: Leucistic Texas Rat
Mode of Genetic Inheritance: Recessive
Morph Type: Single Recessive Mutation
Eye Color: Black pupil & blue to silver iris

Leucism has been demonstrated in most vertebrate species of the world (not just snakes), and surely lurks in the collective genome of ALL vertebrates. In serpent herpetoculture, the Texas Rat Snake (*Pantherophis obsoletus lindheimeri*) is considered the first North American colubrid species to predictably reproduce the recessively inherited leucistic mutation. Many snake keepers in the hobby toDAY believe that in the absence of visible color and markings, and adequate DNA data, it is virtually impossible to visually distinguish between the two cousin species, Black Rat Snake (*P.o.obsoletus*) and the Texas Rat Snake (*P.o.lindheimeri*) – hereafter referred to as LBR and LTR respectively – for convenience. Therefore, the two subspecies may indeed have a common LTR ancestor. I have bred and sold LTRs for years, and 95% of them would bite me nearly every time I picked them up. Most of the LTRs in our lines mature to average 6.4 feet in length.

What to expect:

As hatchlings, LTRs are not white. They are usually shades of pink at hatching, but quickly manifest to dirty white after their first shed (at approximately seven DAYs of post-egg age). Some demonstrate what we believe to be visible water that is retained between skin layers,

but that has not been proven. If you see differently colored areas of white, randomly located on the snake, don't be overly concerned, as it is probably something that all snakes have, but can't visually demonstrate because of the colors they possess. After several months of maturity, the dirty white coloration changes to a brighter white, until at maturity, they are white like the pictured examples on this web site. Approximately 20% of all I have produced over the year will have one or two randomly located color spots on them. Not to the extent of the Palmetto, but the similarity of those color spots will remind you of the many different color spots seen on the Palmetto. Are Palmettos actually leucistic mutants? We may know in a few short years, but at this time, there are not enough to form a hypothesis.

Important Note:

These images are not renderings of the actual animals being offered, (except for uniquely offered snakes found in the SURPLUS section of this web site). We do not provide pictures of individual hatchling snakes for sale, nor do we recommend that you ever choose a new pet based on an image of its neonatal form. Corns change so dramatically from hatchling to adult, they will NEVER have the same colors or contrasts throughout maturity. While most of the snakes we produce will mature to resemble the featured adult image(s) on our web site, unlike manufactured products that are respectively clones of each other, the nature of polygenic variation results in each animal being similar but not identical to others of its morph. The snake we select for you may not mature to be identical to the pictured examples, but will be chosen based on our experience of observing which neonates will mature to properly represent their respective morph. We take this responsibility very seriously, and therefore publish the guarantee that we will exchange your SMR snake if it does not mature to be like our advertised examples.