

Silverleaf Kisatchie(aka Slowinski's Ratsnake)

Pantherophis slowinskii

Most Commonly Used Name: Silverleaf Kisatchie Ratsnake

Mode of Genetic Inheritance: Recessive

Morph Type: Single Recessive Mutation

Eye Color: Black pupil & *body ground colored* iris

DETAILS:

I will be marketing SILVERLEAF mutants of the species, *Pantherophis slowinskii* for Brad Lichtenhan and Gregg Feaster. This mutation is recessive to wild-type and still quite rare in the hobby, despite their discovery back in 2006, and subsequent limited market availability from then to now. The only other mutation of this species was discovered here at South Mountain Reptiles. It is an Anerythristic-type mutation, monochromatically expressing only melanin. I call them BLACK KISATCHIES because some people incorrectly infer that the Anerythristic gene mutation from corn snakes was infused into the Kisatchies via inter-species hybridization. Hence, this Anery-type mutation in Kisatchies is not allelic to Anery corn snakes. They were once called Dark-eyed Kisatchies, but their eyes are not actually dark, so I continue to use the original name I assigned, *Black Kisatchie*. It will be a few years before we can offer any of the Black Kisatchies, but that project is currently in progress. BTW, what is appealing about the Black Kisatchie mutants is that they do not retain or express carotenoid yellow like most corn snake Aneries do. Though it was done by some when they were first discovered, we have NEVER crossed corn snakes with Kisatchies. Kisatchies HET for the Silverleaf mutation are also available.

Price of available 2016 hatchling Silverleaf Kisatchies:

HOMOZYGOTES (aka: visuals):

males \$750.00

females \$900.00 (restricting anyone from buying more than one for now)

Pairs \$1,500.00

No trios unless/until we get more females

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HETEROZYGOTES (aka: hets):

males \$375.00

females \$450.00

pairs \$750.00

History of the species, *Pantherophis slowinskii*

The accepted hobby name, *Kisatchie*, was unofficially assigned to the newest Ratsnake species to be described in the United States, *Pantherophis slowinskii*, reportedly because the “*holotype*” was collected near Kisatchie National Forest in Louisiana. This doesn’t mean that it was the first of its kind to be captured, because I was catching lots of these in 1971 in East Texas and Western Louisiana, incorrectly thinking that they were a notably brown version of Great Plains Ratsnakes (*Pantherophis emoryi*). The common name assigned when this species was described is Slowinski’s Corn Snake, but I personally don’t use that name because it contains the word CORN, and this is officially **N O T** a corn snake. In 2002, Frank T. Burbrink presented sufficient evidence to establish that this snake, *Elaphe slowinskii* (now, *Pantherophis slowinskii*), found between the natural ranges of Corn Snakes, *Pantherophis guttatus* and Great Plains Rat Snakes (aka: Emory’s Rat Snakes) was

sufficiently dissimilar to those species, enough to warrant distinct species status. Surely this species originated from the ancient natural intergradation of Corn Snakes and Emory's Rat Snakes? In order to preserve their genome in captive specimens-s