herpy

MONITOR LIZARDS

Golden speckled tree monitor

Varanus boehmei

A slender, black tree monitor with golden spots in V-shaped rows, found only on the island of Waigeo off New Guinea. The species is rare in captivity and poorly known, so the care advice here is based on figures from close relatives. It needs a large, tall and humid enclosure, daily misting and a keeper with experience.

Family: Varanidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**70-90 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 100 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**38-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**60-90%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**3 eggs**
Incubation	**157-161 days** at 29-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Data Deficient (DD)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

Varanus boehmei is a climber, so height is more important than floor area. An adult needs an enclosure of at least 150 × 100 × 150 cm (length × width × height), and a pair needs more, preferably about 160 × 120 × 180 cm.

TEMPERATURE

The figures for *Varanus boehmei* are borrowed from *V. beccarii* and other species in the group. By day the air should be 26-30 °C, coolest at the bottom and warmest up at the basking spot. The animal must be able to choose.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Species in the *V. prasinus* group dry out easily and are harder to keep than many other monitors. Humidity should be 60-90 %: high at night and after spraying and slightly lower later in the day, so the floor and branches can dry.

LIGHTING AND UVB

Varanus boehmei is probably diurnal and basks high in the trees, so light means both heat and UVB.

FEEDING

Relatives in the group live mostly on insects and other invertebrates, and this probably also applies to *Varanus boehmei*.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Varanus boehmei is small and lightly built, and an adult of 70-90 cm has sharp claws and can bite, but the injuries are not comparable with those from large monitors.

NATIVE RANGE

Indonesia.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/en/monitor-lizards/varanus-boehmei