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MONITOR LIZARDS

Bogert's Monitor

Varanus bogerti

Varanus bogerti is a black, arboreal monitor from the islands off the south-eastern tip of New Guinea, and it belongs to the group of tree monitors around *Varanus prasinus*. The species is known only from a handful of museum specimens and is almost unknown in captivity, so its care is based on its closest relatives.

Family: Varanidae Former name: *Varanus prasinus bogerti*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**82-94 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 80 × 180 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-34 °C**
Basking spot	**45-50 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**70-95%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**2-3 eggs**
Incubation	**157-203 days** at 29-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Varanus bogerti*, and the species has hardly been seen in captivity.
TEMPERATURE	By day the temperature should be 24-34 °C and at night 22-25 °C. The surface temperature at the basking spots should be 45-50 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 70-95 %. Mist the enclosure several times a day with fresh water, preferably with an automatic system, and let the substrate dry out a little between mistings.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs UVB light. Use a combined heat and UVB lamp over the basking spot, so that the animal can choose between shade and light, and aim for Ferguson zone 2.
FEEDING	Feeding is borrowed from *V. beccarii* and *V. prasinus*, which mainly eat large arthropods.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is probably shy and nervous like other tree monitors, and handling stresses the animal.
NATIVE RANGE	Papua New Guinea.