herpy

MONITOR LIZARDS

Cuming's water monitor

Varanus cumingi

Varanus cumingi is a large, yellow and black water monitor from Mindanao and the nearest islands in the southern Philippines, formerly regarded as a subspecies of *Varanus salvator*. Much of its care is borrowed from related water monitors.

Family: Varanidae Former name: *Varanus salvator cumingi*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**100-150 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal, terrestrial and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**300 × 150 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-32 °C**
Basking spot	**52-60 °C**
Temperature, night	**21-24 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water section** depth 35-50 cm
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**24 months**
Clutch size	**5-10 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-3**
Incubation	**187-220 days** at 27-31.5 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult *Varanus cumingi* of about 150 cm needs a home-built terrarium or a whole room of at least 300 × 150 × 150 cm (length × width × height), and larger is better.
TEMPERATURE	*Varanus cumingi* needs a background temperature of 27-32 °C by day. The basking spot should have a surface temperature of 52-60 °C, measured with an IR thermometer on the basking spot itself, not in the air.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity should be 60-70 %. A large water pool in itself keeps the humidity up, and a damp, deep substrate gives the animal somewhere to retreat.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The species is tied to water, so a large water section is not optional. It must be large enough for the whole animal to lie submerged and swim, and the depth should be 35-50 cm for an adult.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and basks, so strong light and UVB are necessary. Treat it as a species for Ferguson zone 3, like other diurnal monitors that bask a lot.
FEEDING	In the wild *Varanus cumingi* eats many kinds of animals and carrion. Young live mostly on insects such as crickets, grasshoppers and cockroaches, preferably supplemented with small fish.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Varanus cumingi* is large and powerful, and even a medium-sized monitor has sharp teeth, strong claws and a powerful tail that it can whip with. A bite can cause deep wounds, and the claws can tear the skin open.
NATIVE RANGE	Philippines.