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MONITOR LIZARDS

Kimberley Rock Monitor

Varanus glauerti

A slender, long-legged rock monitor from the Kimberley in north-western Australia, with a dark head, blue-grey eye-spots on the back and a tail with sharp black and white bands. *Varanus glauerti* only reaches 60-80 cm, but it is demanding: it needs a large, warm and tall enclosure with rock surfaces and crevices, and the keeper must have experience with UVB, egg incubation and timid animals.

Family: Varanidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**60-80 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 80 × 100 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-32 °C**
Basking spot	**45-55 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**3-9 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-4**
Incubation	**104-110 days** at 28.5-29.5 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE
An adult needs an enclosure of at least 150 × 80 × 100 cm (length × width × height). A pair should preferably have 190 × 100 × 105 cm. Bigger is better, because the animal climbs, runs and needs a clear temperature gradient.

TEMPERATURE
Varanus glauerti basks a lot and needs hot basking spots. The surface temperature of the basking spot, measured with an IR thermometer, must be 45-55 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER
Humidity must be 50-80 %, preferably 60-80 % for breeding animals. Adults are misted a couple of times a week. Juveniles are misted daily, because they are more active at high humidity.

LIGHTING AND UVB
The species is diurnal and requires strong UVB light (Ferguson zone 3).

FEEDING
The species lives mostly on insects. Adults are fed 3-4 times a week with crickets, dubia cockroaches, grasshoppers and hornworms, and occasionally a half-grown mouse or a newborn rat pup.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING
The species is timid and must be accustomed to handling slowly. In the first weeks after coming home the animal must be left in peace.

NATIVE RANGE
Australia.