herpy

MONITOR LIZARDS

Peach-throated monitor

Varanus jobiensis

Varanus jobiensis is a medium-sized, diurnal monitor from the rainforest of New Guinea and the nearby islands, known for its whitish-yellow to red throat. The species grows to about 120 cm, likes to dig, and needs a spacious, humid and warm enclosure. It belongs with the experienced keeper, and only a few animals in the trade are captive bred.

Family: Varanidae Former name: *Varanus karlschmidti; Varanus indicus jobiensis*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**100-120 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**240 × 90 × 200 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-29 °C**
Basking spot	**35-54 °C**
Temperature, night	**23-25 °C**
Humidity	**60-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**3-5 eggs**
Incubation	**179-181 days** at 29-32 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs a very large enclosure of at least 240 × 90 × 200 cm (length × width × height), preferably 240 cm high, and a pair needs more. The bigger the better, because the species is active and uses the whole area.
TEMPERATURE	*Varanus jobiensis* needs a large temperature gradient. By day the air temperature should be 26-29 °C, and there should be several basking spots with surface temperatures of 35-54 °C, heated with 65-90 W outdoor spotlights.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species comes from rainforest, and the enclosure should reflect that. Spray the whole enclosure heavily for several minutes every day, for example with a garden hose, so that the substrate stays moist.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and needs strong light and UVB. Use a high-intensity UVB source as for other monitors, for example mercury vapour lamps, which give both heat and UV, or powerful high-quality UVB tubes.
FEEDING	In the wild insects are the staple food, supplemented with frogs, other invertebrates and reptile eggs. In captivity the animals take young mice and cockroaches (*Blaptica dubia*).
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Safety and handling: *Varanus jobiensis* is fast and strong and has powerful claws and teeth. Bites and claw scratches from an animal of about a metre can be deep and must be cleaned thoroughly.
NATIVE RANGE	Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.