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MONITOR LIZARDS

Marbled Water Monitor

Varanus marmoratus

Varanus marmoratus is a large, semi-aquatic monitor from northern Luzon and the nearby islands in the Philippines and was formerly a subspecies of *Varanus salvator*. Nothing has been published about the care and breeding of the species, so the guidance cautiously borrows from *V. salvator*.

Family: Varanidae Former name: *Varanus salvator marmoratus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**100-196 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**245 × 185 × 245 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-30 °C**
Basking spot	**45-55 °C**
Temperature, night	**24-27 °C**
Humidity	**60-70%**
Water	**Water section** depth 35-50 cm
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**6-18 eggs**
Incubation	**180-210 days** at 30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

The dimensions are borrowed from *Varanus salvator*. One adult *Varanus marmoratus* needs at least 245 × 185 × 245 cm (length × width × height). This is a home-built enclosure or a whole room, not an ordinary glass terrarium.

TEMPERATURE

The temperatures for *Varanus marmoratus* are borrowed from *Varanus salvator*, which lives close to the equator, where the temperature does not vary much over the year.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

Humidity must be around 60-70 %. The figure is borrowed from *Varanus salvator*. Heat combined with a large water area raises humidity by itself, and the substrate in the digging zone must be slightly damp, not wet.

WATER AND WATER QUALITY

Like *Varanus salvator*, the species is regarded as semi-aquatic, and a large water area is a prerequisite, not decoration.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal, basks a great deal and probably needs UVB.

FEEDING

The food is borrowed from *Varanus salvator*. The species is a versatile carnivore: in the wild it takes invertebrates, vertebrates and carrion, and it is often seen eating refuse around settlements.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

Nothing is documented about the temperament of *Varanus marmoratus* in captivity, so be prepared for it to behave like other large water monitors. They defend themselves with the tail, claws and jaws.

NATIVE RANGE

Philippines.