herpy

MONITOR LIZARDS

Nile Monitor

Varanus niloticus

Varanus niloticus is one of Africa's largest lizards: up to 2 m long, fond of water, fast and very defensive. As an adult it requires a whole room.

Family: Varanidae Former name: *Varanus ornatus*

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**120-220 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**6,000-15,000 g**
Lifespan	**10-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal, burrowing and semi-aquatic**
Habitat	**Savanna and wetland**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**400 × 200 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-32 °C**
Basking spot	**35-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-26 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
Water	**Water section** depth 30-50 cm
Water temperature	**24-28 °C**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**24-48 months**
Clutch size	**5-60 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1**
Incubation	**120-300 days** at 27-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult of 150-200 cm needs a facility of a completely different size from an ordinary terrarium: a very large enclosure with trees to climb and a large pool to swim in.
TEMPERATURE	*Varanus niloticus* is a sun lover. By day the background temperature should be 26-32 °C, and the basking spot should have a surface temperature of 35-45 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer at the place where the animal lies.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species is tied to water, and humidity should be around 50-70 %, with a more humid area in the deeper layers of the substrate and a drier one at the basking spot.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and basks a lot, and UVB light is necessary.
FEEDING	In the wild the species is an opportunistic hunter that eats earthworms, snails, crayfish and crabs, beetles, grasshoppers, spiders, ants, frogs, toads, fish, rodents, lizards, snakes, birds and their eggs, as well as crocodile eggs and hatchlings, and it also eats carrion.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Safety comes first. *Varanus niloticus* is fast, strong and very defensive.
NATIVE RANGE	South Africa, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Angola, Malawi, Gabon, Congo - Kinshasa, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Egypt, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau.