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MONITOR LIZARDS

## Yellow-spotted Monitor

# *Varanus panoptes*

*Varanus panoptes* is a powerful, curious ground monitor from northern Australia and southern New Guinea, known for rising up on its hind legs and tail to scout. It is active, clever and greedy, digs deep burrows and grows up to 150 cm long. The species requires a home-built enclosure of several square metres, a deep substrate and an experienced keeper, and it is not an animal for handling.

Family: Varanidae

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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|---|---|
| Adult size | **90-150 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Weight | **3,000-10,000 g** |
| Lifespan | **15-20 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Terrestrial and burrowing** |
| Habitat | **Savanna and wetland** |
| Difficulty | **Experienced** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **240 × 120 × 150 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **24-38 °C** |
| Basking spot | **46-57 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **20-25 °C** |
| Humidity | **70-80%** |
| Water | **Water dish** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 3 |
| Diet | **Insects and vertebrates** |
| Kept | **Singly or in pairs** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **6-13 eggs** |
| Incubation | **194-240 days**<br>at 26-30 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

## Care at a glance

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|---|---|
| **THE ENCLOSURE** | Adults should not be kept in an ordinary enclosure. An adult male needs at least 240 × 120 × 150 cm (length × width × height), and a whole room is better. |
| **TEMPERATURE** | A large temperature gradient is needed. The air in the terrarium is kept at about 24-38 °C, with cooler areas down at the bottom and warmer towards the basking spot. |
| **HUMIDITY AND WATER** | The humidity must be moderate to high. In the middle of the terrarium it should be 70-80 %. This is best achieved by keeping the substrate moist a few centimetres down while the surface is relatively dry. |
| **WATER AND WATER QUALITY** | *Varanus panoptes* likes to bathe, and a large tub is part of the set-up. Use a container in which the whole animal can lie in the water, e.g. a cement mixing tub or a large plastic tub for large animals. |
| **LIGHTING AND UVB** | Keep the light on for about 12 hours a day. |
| **FEEDING** | *Varanus panoptes* is an omnivorous predator with a high metabolism, and it quickly learns that the keeper means food. |
| **BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING** | *Varanus panoptes* is active and curious and likes to hiss, but it is not an animal for handling. It rarely becomes calm from being picked up and should be regarded as an animal to look at. |
| **NATIVE RANGE** | Australia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. |