herpy

MONITOR LIZARDS

Tricoloured monitor lizard

Varanus yuwonoi

Varanus yuwonoi is a rare, brightly coloured monitor from the forests of Halmahera in Indonesia, with a black forebody, a hind body finely speckled with green, blue and black, and a blue tail. Animals in the trade are almost all wild-caught, and its care and breeding are almost unknown. It belongs with very experienced keepers who have room for a whole room.

Family: Varanidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**100-150 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Terrestrial**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**300 × 150 × 180 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**40-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**23-25 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**4-9 eggs**
Incubation	**164-166 days** at 29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Vulnerable (VU)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The figures for the care and breeding of *Varanus yuwonoi* are borrowed from the closely related *Varanus melinus* in the same group, or are estimates.
TEMPERATURE	In the wild it is 25-30 °C all year round in the lowlands. In the enclosure there must be a large temperature gradient.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species lives in a humid forest climate with no dry season. Keep humidity at 70-90 % with daily misting and a moist substrate, especially at the bottom, where the animal digs.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is diurnal and basks, so it needs bright light and UVB. Use UVB tubes or UVB bulbs together with one or more basking lamps so the animal can choose between sun and shade. Ferguson zone 3 is a good starting point.
FEEDING	The diet in the wild has not been studied, but the species probably takes birds, lizards, snakes and invertebrates around the nest mounds and digs for eggs.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	The species is aggressive when handled.
NATIVE RANGE	Indonesia.