herpy

VARANEN

Mertens's Water Monitor

Varanus mertensi

Varanus mertensi is a dark, semi-aquatic monitor from rivers and lagoons in northern Australia, with a compressed tail that works like an oar and nostrils that can be closed under water. The species is threatened in the wild, and although it has been bred in captivity, its care is only sparsely described. It needs a large facility with a deep water section.

Familie: Varanidae

KERNGEGEVENS

HET DIER

Volwassen grootte	**80-120 cm** totale lengte incl. staart
Levensduur	**10-15 jaar**
Actief	**Overdag**
Levenswijze	**Bodembewonend en semi-aquatisch**
Leefgebied	**Savanne, rotsachtig terrein en moerasgebied**
Moeilijkheidsgraad	**Expert**

VERZORGING

Min. terrarium	**250 × 120 × 120 cm** L × B × H voor 1 volwassen dier
Temperatuur overdag	**28-32 °C**
Zonneplek	**40-50 °C**
Temperatuur 's nachts	**22-25 °C**
Luchtvochtigheid	**60-80%**
Water	**Watergedeelte** diepte 40-60 cm
Watertemperatuur	**26-30 °C**
UVB	**Onmisbaar** Fergusonzone 3
Voeding	**Insecten, gewervelde dieren en wormen/slakken**
Gehouden	**Solitair**

KWEEK

Voortplanting	**Eierleggend**
Legselgrootte	**10 eieren**
Incubatie	**200-300 dagen** bij 28-31 °C

BESCHERMING EN PAPIEREN

CITES	**Bijlage II**
EU-bijlage	**Bijlage B**
IUCN	**Bedreigd (EN)**

Verzorging in het kort

HET TERRARIUM

An adult needs a facility of at least 250 × 120 × 120 cm (length × width × height), with enough water for it to swim. Two animals need at least 50 % more floor area. Larger is better, because the species swims and moves a lot.

TEMPERATUUR

Varanus mertensi comes from a warm, tropical climate and needs a clear temperature gradient. The air must be 28-32 °C by day, and the basking spot must have a surface temperature of 40-50 °C, measured with an IR thermometer.

LUCHTVOCHTIGHEID EN WATER

The humidity in the enclosure should be 60-80 %. With a large water section the humidity holds almost by itself, so the most important thing is good ventilation, so that the air does not become heavy and stagnant.

WATER EN WATERKWALITEIT

The water section is the heart of the facility, and the animal must be able to swim and dive in it.

VERLICHTING EN UVB

Varanus mertensi is diurnal and basks a lot and therefore needs strong light and UVB.

VOEDING

In the wild *Varanus mertensi* lives mostly on freshwater crabs and also on fish, frogs, crayfish, shrimps, other arthropods, eggs and carrion. This is difficult to imitate fully in captivity.

GEDRAG EN OMGANG

Safety: *Varanus mertensi* is strong and fast, and even an animal of one metre has sharp claws, powerful jaws and a tail that can lash hard.

NATUURLIJK VERSPREIDINGSGEBIED

Australië.