herpy

VARANEN

Mitchell's water monitor

Varanus mitchelli

Varanus mitchelli is a slender, semi-aquatic monitor from northern Australia, typically 60-70 cm and at most about 1 m long with a laterally compressed swimming tail. The species is shy, almost unknown in the hobby and assessed as critically endangered, because the poison of the introduced toad *Rhinella marina* has decimated populations. There is little care experience, and it belongs with the very experienced.

Familie: Varanidae

KERNGEGEVENS

HET DIER

Volwassen grootte	**60-96 cm** totale lengte incl. staart
Levensduur	**10-15 jaar**
Actief	**Overdag**
Levenswijze	**Boombewonend en semi-aquatisch**
Leefgebied	**Savanne en moerasgebied**
Moeilijkheidsgraad	**Expert**

VERZORGING

Min. terrarium	**200 × 100 × 150 cm** L × B × H voor 1 volwassen dier
Temperatuur overdag	**28-32 °C**
Zonneplek	**40-50 °C**
Temperatuur ’s nachts	**22-25 °C**
Luchtvochtigheid	**50-80%**
Water	**Watergedeelte** diepte 20-30 cm
UVB	**Aanbevolen** Fergusonzone 3
Voeding	**Insecten en gewervelde dieren**
Gehouden	**Solitair**

KWEEK

Voortplanting	**Eierleggend**
Legselgrootte	**7-27 eieren**
Legsels per jaar	**2-6**
Incubatie	**90-289 dagen** bij 26-31 °C

BESCHERMING EN PAPIEREN

CITES	**Bijlage II**
EU-bijlage	**Bijlage B**
IUCN	**Ernstig bedreigd (CR)**

Verzorging in het kort

HET TERRARIUM	There is almost no experience of keeping *Varanus mitchelli*, so the care is based on the related *V. acanthurus*, on a single breeding of the species and on its life in the wild.
TEMPERATUUR	By day the enclosure must be 28-32 °C, and the basking spot must reach 40-50 °C measured as surface temperature with an IR thermometer. At night the heat is switched off and the temperature falls to 22-25 °C.
LUCHTVOCHTIGHEID EN WATER	Humidity must be 50-80 %: slightly higher at night and by the water, drier at the basking spot. The water section and a damp substrate keep humidity up.
WATER EN WATERKWALITEIT	The species is semi-aquatic, so a fixed water section is part of the enclosure and not merely a drinking bowl.
VERLICHTING EN UVB	The species is diurnal and basks and needs UVB corresponding to Ferguson zone 3. Mount a T5 tube (10-12 %) or a powerful combination lamp over the basking spot, so that the animal can get close and move out into shade.
VOEDING	In the wild the species eats mainly grasshoppers, spiders and fish, but also other invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and their eggs, small mammals and birds. Insects are therefore a good basis, supplemented with small fish.
GEDRAG EN OMGANG	*Varanus mitchelli* is a shy and cautious species that hides a lot and is not an animal you pick up every day.
NATUURLIJK VERSPREIDINGSGEBIED	Australië.