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VARANOS

## Ridgetail Monitor

# *Varanus acanthurus*

*Varanus acanthurus* is a small, fast and inquisitive monitor from the dry rocky country of Australia, with a tail covered in spiny scales and yellow spots on a dark background. It grows to about 60 cm, is diurnal and lives mostly on insects. In return, it needs a large custom-built enclosure, a deep and damp digging substrate, very hot basking spots, UVB and a lifespan of at least 15 years.

Família: Varanidae

### DADOS PRINCIPAIS

#### O ANIMAL

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| Tamanho adulto | **45-70 cm**<br>comprimento total com a cauda |
| Longevidade | **15-20 anos** |
| Ativo | **De dia** |
| Estilo de vida | **Rupícola, terrestre e escavador** |
| Habitat | **Semideserto, savana e terreno rochoso** |
| Dificuldade | **Intermediário** |

#### CUIDADOS

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| Terrário mín. | **150 × 75 × 120 cm**<br>C × L × A para 1 adulto |
| Temperatura, dia | **24-38 °C** |
| Ponto quente | **55-65 °C** |
| Temperatura, noite | **20-24 °C** |
| Umidade | **20-50%** |
| Água | **Recipiente de água** |
| UVB | **Recomendado**<br>Zona de Ferguson 3 |
| Alimentação | **Insetos e vertebrados** |
| Mantido | **Sozinho ou em casal** |

#### REPRODUÇÃO

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| Reprodução | **Ovíparo** |
| Tamanho da postura | **4-18 ovos** |
| Incubação | **90-150 dias**<br>a 28-30 °C |

#### PROTEÇÃO E DOCUMENTAÇÃO

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| CITES | **Apêndice II** |
| Anexo da UE | **Anexo B** |
| IUCN | **Menos preocupante (LC)** |

## Resumo dos cuidados

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| **O TERRÁRIO** | An adult needs an enclosure of at least 150 × 75 × 120 cm (length × width × height). That size usually requires a custom build or an order from a manufacturer, because the standard enclosures in the trade are too small. |
| **TEMPERATURA** | *Varanus acanthurus* needs a large temperature gradient. The basking spot should have a surface temperature of 55-65 °C, measured with an infrared thermometer about two hours after the lamps are switched on. |
| **UMIDADE E ÁGUA** | The relative humidity in the enclosure should be 20-50 %. That is more than in a true desert and corresponds to what the animal meets in its homeland. |
| **ILUMINAÇÃO E UVB** | The species is diurnal and basks in the middle of the day, so it needs strong light. Fit a daylight tube or an LED lamp of 6,400 K over the enclosure in addition to the heat lamps, and avoid coloured lamps, also at night. |
| **ALIMENTAÇÃO** | The species is insectivorous. In the wild the diet consists mostly of grasshoppers, beetles and cockroaches, supplemented with spiders, millipedes, woodlice, caterpillars, cicadas and snails. |
| **COMPORTAMENTO E MANUSEIO** | *Varanus acanthurus* is a clever and inquisitive monitor that remembers its keepers and past experiences. It is relatively easy to tame compared with other monitors, but taming takes time. |
| **ÁREA DE OCORRÊNCIA NATURAL** | Austrália. |