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VARANOS

Spotted Tree Monitor

Varanus similis

Varanus similis is a small, diurnal tree monitor from northern Australia and New Guinea. It is kept in a tall enclosure with cork, hides and a warm basking spot, lives on feeder insects and is a rare, tree-dwelling alternative to the ground-dwelling small monitors. Experience with its care is limited, though.

Família: Varanidae Nome anterior: *Varanus timorensis similis; Varanus scalaris similis*

DADOS PRINCIPAIS

O ANIMAL

Tamanho adulto	**45-60 cm** comprimento total com a cauda
Longevidade	**8-12 anos**
Ativo	**De dia**
Estilo de vida	**Arborícola**
Habitat	**Savana e floresta seca**
Dificuldade	**Intermediário**

CUIDADOS

Terrário mín.	**80 × 80 × 130 cm** C × L × A para 1 adulto
Temperatura, dia	**25-30 °C**
Ponto quente	**40-42 °C**
Temperatura, noite	**22-25 °C**
Umidade	**60-80%**
UVB	**Recomendado** Zona de Ferguson 3
Alimentação	**Insetos**
Mantido	**Sozinho ou em casal**

REPRODUÇÃO

Reprodução	**Ovíparo**
Maturidade sexual	**24 meses**
Tamanho da postura	**3-18 ovos**
Incubação	**120-136 dias** a 28-29 °C

PROTEÇÃO E DOCUMENTAÇÃO

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

Resumo dos cuidados

O TERRÁRIO

An adult needs a tall terrarium of at least 80 × 80 × 130 cm (length × width × height). A pair needs more space, preferably 100 × 100 × 200 cm. As the species is arboreal, height counts for more than floor area.

TEMPERATURA

The daytime temperature in the terrarium is 25-30 °C, with 30 °C in the upper parts and 25 °C down at the bottom. The basking spot is a branch or stone under a spotlight that gives a local surface temperature of 40-42 °C.

UMIDADE E ÁGUA

Relative humidity is kept at 60-80 %. This is achieved by misting the enclosure with water in the evening and letting the substrate hold moisture, possibly with a weak heating cable under the floor.

ILUMINAÇÃO E UVB

The species is diurnal and needs bright light and UVB. Over the basking spot a 150 W HQI floodlight of daylight quality (5000 K) can be combined with a 150 W halogen spotlight.

ALIMENTAÇÃO

The animals take all common feeder insects and are not fussy. Cockroaches (*Blaptica dubia* and *Blaberus atropus*) of a suitable size make a good staple, and locusts are a popular change.

COMPORTAMENTO E MANUSEIO

Wild-caught animals are shy at first, but that is natural behaviour: the species flees or hides until the threat has passed, and hunts from ambush. It does not mean the species is especially timid.

ÁREA DE OCORRÊNCIA NATURAL

Austrália e Papua-Nova Guiné.