herpy

MONITOR LIZARDS

Golden speckled tree monitor

Varanus boehmei

A slender, black tree monitor with golden spots in V-shaped rows, found only on the island of Waigeo off New Guinea. The species is rare in captivity and poorly known, so the care advice here is based on figures from close relatives. It needs a large, tall and humid enclosure, daily misting and a keeper with experience.

Family: Varanidae Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**70-90 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-12 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 100 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-30 °C**
Basking spot	**38-45 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**60-90%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**3 eggs**
Incubation	**157-161 days** at 29-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Data Deficient (DD)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	*Varanus boehmei* is a climber, so height is more important than floor area. An adult needs an enclosure of at least 150 × 100 × 150 cm (length × width × height), and a pair needs more, preferably about 160 × 120 × 180 cm.
TEMPERATURE	The figures for *Varanus boehmei* are borrowed from *V. beccarii* and other species in the group. By day the air temperature should be 24-34 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Species in the *V. prasinus* group dry out easily and are harder to keep than many other monitors.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Varanus boehmei* is probably diurnal and basks high in the trees, so light means both heat and UVB.
FEEDING	Relatives in the group live mostly on insects and other invertebrates, and this probably also applies to *Varanus boehmei*.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Varanus boehmei* is small and lightly built, and an adult of 70-90 cm has sharp claws and can bite, but the injuries are not comparable with those from large monitors.
NATIVE RANGE	Indonesia.

The full guide with map and updates: herpy.org/varaner/varanus-boehmei