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MONITOR LIZARDS

Dumeril Monitor

Varanus dumerilii

Varanus dumerilii is a dark, heavily built monitor with a broad skull from the rainforests and mangroves of South-East Asia, and it is a crab specialist. It is shy and rarely seen in the wild, but regularly turns up in the trade. Adults grow to about a metre long and need a large, warm and humid enclosure, so the species suits only an experienced keeper.

Family: Varanidae Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**90-140 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal, terrestrial and burrowing**
Habitat	**Rainforest and wetland**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**240 × 120 × 120 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-32 °C**
Basking spot	**35-42 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Water section**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**4-23 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-3**
Incubation	**163-234 days** at 24-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	The enclosure dimensions for *Varanus dumerilii* are based on the species' length and on common practice for ground-dwelling monitors.
TEMPERATURE	The species' preferred temperatures have not been measured, and the figures are an estimate based on forest-dwelling monitors.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The species comes from humid forests and mangroves, so the humidity should be high: 70-90 %, with the floor damp in depth but not wet and stagnant. The figures are borrowed from other rainforest monitors.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The species is mostly diurnal and uses the sun, so UVB light is recommended.
FEEDING	*Varanus dumerilii* is a crab specialist. Its jaws and behaviour are built for taking crabs apart: the animal shakes its prey, first breaks off the claws and legs using the ground for support and finally crushes the carapace.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*V. dumerilii* is shy and cautious, but like all monitors it is an animal with sharp claws, strong jaws and a tail that can be used as a whip. A bite from an adult monitor of about a metre can cause deep wounds and must be treated.
NATIVE RANGE	Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia.