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MONITOR LIZARDS

Kimberley Rock Monitor

Varanus glauerti

A slender, long-legged rock monitor from the Kimberley in north-western Australia, with a dark head, blue-grey eye-spots on the back and a tail with sharp black and white bands. *Varanus glauerti* only reaches 60-80 cm, but it is demanding: it needs a large, warm and tall enclosure with rock surfaces and crevices, and the keeper must have experience with UVB, egg incubation and timid animals.

Family: Varanidae Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**60-80 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**15-20 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal and rock-dwelling**
Habitat	**Savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 80 × 100 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**26-32 °C**
Basking spot	**45-55 °C**
Temperature, night	**18-22 °C**
Humidity	**50-80%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Essential** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**3-9 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-4**
Incubation	**104-110 days** at 28.5-29.5 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix II**
EU annex	**Annex B**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE

An adult needs an enclosure of at least 150 × 80 × 100 cm (length × width × height). A pair should preferably have 190 × 100 × 105 cm. Bigger is better, because the animal climbs, runs and needs a clear temperature gradient.

TEMPERATURE

Varanus glauerti basks a lot and needs hot basking spots. The surface temperature at the basking spot, measured with an IR thermometer, must be 45-55 °C.

HUMIDITY AND WATER

The humidity must be 50-80 %, preferably 60-80 % for animals used for breeding. The figures given for misting range from twice a week to daily. The hatchlings are more active at high humidity and should be misted daily.

LIGHTING AND UVB

The species is diurnal and requires strong UVB light (Ferguson zone 3).

FEEDING

The species lives mostly on insects. Adults are fed 3-4 times a week with crickets, dubia cockroaches, grasshoppers and hornworms, and occasionally a half-grown mouse or a newborn rat pup.

BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING

The species is timid and must be accustomed to handling slowly. In the first weeks after coming home the animal must be left in peace.

NATIVE RANGE

Australia.