herpy

MONITOR LIZARDS

Biak Emerald Monitor

Varanus kordensis

Varanus kordensis is a slender, green arboreal monitor with a net of dark ring-shaped spots, and it lives only on the island of Biak north of New Guinea. It belongs to a group of tree monitors known to be difficult to keep and breed, and there are almost no detailed husbandry figures for this particular species.

Family: Varanidae Former name: *Monitor kordensis; Varanus prasinus kordensis* Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**70-90 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**8-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Expert**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 80 × 180 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-34 °C**
Basking spot	**45-50 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**75-95%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**2-5 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-3**
Incubation	**160-190 days** at 28-30 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Care of *Varanus kordensis* is almost the same as for the other green tree monitors: a large, tall enclosure with many hides, thick branches and cork tubes.
TEMPERATURE	The temperatures are borrowed from *Varanus beccarii* and are a cautious starting point for *Varanus kordensis*. By day the temperature should be 24-34 °C and at night 22-25 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity must be high, about 75-95 %, and should not fall below 75 %. Dry conditions cause dehydration and problems with shedding.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Varanus kordensis* is diurnal and basks in the tree canopy. The need for UVB is not known for the species, but UVB is recommended.
FEEDING	*Varanus kordensis* lives mostly on insects. In captivity the staple diet consists of crickets, cockroaches, grasshoppers and eggs, and chicken, meat, prawns and rodents are given only occasionally.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Varanus kordensis* is so small that a bite is rarely serious, but the claws are sharp and can cause deep tears, and the tail is used for gripping, not for whipping. The animals are fast and shy and prefer to flee rather than bite.
NATIVE RANGE	Indonesia.

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