herpy

MONITOR LIZARDS

Yellow tree monitor

Varanus reisingeri

A slender, yellow and black tree monitor from the island of Misool in Indonesia, with a long prehensile tail and bright yellow spots on the back. The species is rare in vivaria, needs a tall, warm, highly humid enclosure and belongs with the experienced monitor keeper, not the beginner.

Family: Varanidae Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**80-95 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**120 × 60 × 180 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-32 °C**
Basking spot	**35-48 °C**
Temperature, night	**24 °C**
Humidity	**60-90%**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 2
Diet	**Insects and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**1-7 eggs**
Incubation	**160-170 days** at 29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs a tall, custom-built enclosure of at least 120 × 60 × 180 cm (length × width × height), and height is more important than floor area.
TEMPERATURE	The daytime temperature in the enclosure should be 27-32 °C, and the night must not get colder than about 24 °C. Over a basking spot that the animal can get right up to, the surface temperature should be 35-48 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity should be high, about 60-90 %, and preferably above 70 %. Maintain it by misting the enclosure heavily by hand in the morning and letting the air dry out a little in the afternoon. Mist again in the evening.
LIGHTING AND UVB	*Varanus reisingeri* is diurnal and needs 12 hours of light a day from fluorescent tubes or LED.
FEEDING	*Varanus reisingeri* is a versatile hunter that eats insects and other invertebrates as well as smaller vertebrates.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Wild-caught animals are shy, hide and become stressed easily. It can take several months before a wild-caught animal trusts you. Put your hand calmly into the enclosure every day, and let the animal come over curiously.
NATIVE RANGE	Indonesia.

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