herpy

MONITOR LIZARDS

Spotted Tree Monitor

Varanus timorensis

Varanus timorensis is a small, diurnal tree monitor from Timor and the neighbouring islands of the Lesser Sunda Islands, dark with yellow spots and a very long tail. It grows to no more than 61 cm, but needs a tall, warm enclosure, daily feeding with live insects and a keeper with experience of small monitors.

Family: Varanidae Former name: *Varanus auffenbergi* Published 15 November 2026

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**50-61 cm** total length incl. tail
Weight	**100-350 g**
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**By day**
Lifestyle	**Arboreal**
Habitat	**Dry forest and rainforest**
Difficulty	**Experienced**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**150 × 75 × 150 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**27-32 °C**
Basking spot	**40-50 °C**
Temperature, night	**22-25 °C**
Humidity	**50-70%**
Water	**Water dish**
UVB	**Recommended** Ferguson zone 3
Diet	**Insects and vertebrates**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Clutch size	**5-11 eggs**
Clutches per year	**1-2**
Incubation	**90-135 days** at 29-32 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	An adult needs a tall enclosure of at least 150 × 75 × 150 cm (length × width × height).
TEMPERATURE	Temperatures for *Varanus timorensis* are not documented in detail. The figures here are set from the species' habitat and from related small monitors: 27-32 °C in the air during the day and 22-25 °C at night.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	The humidity in the enclosure should be 50-70 %, but the figure is not documented for *Varanus timorensis*, and the animals have been seen on breeding farms in open, well-ventilated enclosures.
LIGHTING AND UVB	As a diurnal sun lover, *Varanus timorensis* needs strong light and UVB all day.
FEEDING	In the wild *Varanus timorensis* lives mostly on arthropods, but also takes lizards and small snakes.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Varanus timorensis* is a small and fast animal that flees into hiding when startled. Bites from an animal of up to 61 cm are rarely life-threatening, but the teeth are sharp, and the claws can tear the skin.
NATIVE RANGE	Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

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