herpy

MONITOR LIZARDS

## Tricoloured monitor lizard

# *Varanus yuwonoi*

*Varanus yuwonoi* is a rare, brightly coloured monitor from the forests of Halmahera in Indonesia, with a black forebody, a hind body finely speckled with green, blue and black, and a blue tail. Animals in the trade are almost all wild-caught, and its care and breeding are almost unknown. It belongs with very experienced keepers who have room for a whole room.

Family: Varanidae  Published 16 November 2026

KEY FACTS

### THE ANIMAL

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| Adult size | **100-150 cm**<br>total length incl. tail |
| Lifespan | **10-15 years** |
| Active | **By day** |
| Lifestyle | **Terrestrial** |
| Habitat | **Rainforest** |
| Difficulty | **Expert** |

### CARE

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|---|---|
| Min. enclosure | **300 × 150 × 180 cm**<br>L × W × H for 1 adult |
| Temperature, day | **26-30 °C** |
| Basking spot | **40-45 °C** |
| Temperature, night | **23-25 °C** |
| Humidity | **70-90%** |
| UVB | **Recommended**<br>Ferguson zone 3 |
| Diet | **Insects and vertebrates** |
| Kept | **Singly** |

### BREEDING

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| Reproduction | **Egg-laying** |
| Clutch size | **4-9 eggs** |
| Incubation | **164-166 days**<br>at 29 °C |

### PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

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| CITES | **Appendix II** |
| EU annex | **Annex B** |
| IUCN | **Vulnerable (VU)** |

## Care at a glance

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| THE ENCLOSURE | The care of *Varanus yuwonoi* is based on the closely related *Varanus melinus* in the same group and on estimates. |
| TEMPERATURE | In the wild it is 25-30 °C all year round in the lowlands. The enclosure must have a large temperature gradient. |
| HUMIDITY AND WATER | The species lives in a humid forest climate with no dry season. Keep the humidity at 70-90 % with daily misting and a damp substrate, especially at the bottom where the animal digs. |
| LIGHTING AND UVB | The species is diurnal and basks, so it needs bright light and UVB. Use UVB tubes or UVB bulbs together with one or more basking lamps so the animal can choose between sun and shade. Ferguson zone 3 is a good starting point. |
| FEEDING | The diet in the wild has not been studied, but the species probably takes birds, lizards, snakes and invertebrates at the nesting mounds and digs for eggs. |
| BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING | The species is aggressive when handled. |
| NATIVE RANGE | Indonesia. |

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