

Green Tree Monitor

Varanus prasinus



Physical Characteristics

- Physical description: Also known as the Emerald Tree Monitor. Medium size compared to other monitors. Their tail is almost double the length of their body.
- Coloration: Usually a bright green.
- Sexual Dimorphism: Males slightly larger than females
- Other defining characteristics: Big scaled feet and long skinny fingers for climbing trees.

Size

- Length: 670 to 1140 mm (26.38 to 44.88 in)
- Weight: 300 g (10.57 oz)

Lifespan

- Wild: Unknown
- Zoos: 15 years

Behaviors

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Lifestyle: Arboreal
- Social Structure: Solitary.

Diet

- Wild: Mainly arthropods but also small invertebrates, insects, small birds and mammals, eggs, frogs.
- Zoo: insects, mice, and occasionally hard-boiled eggs

Reproduction

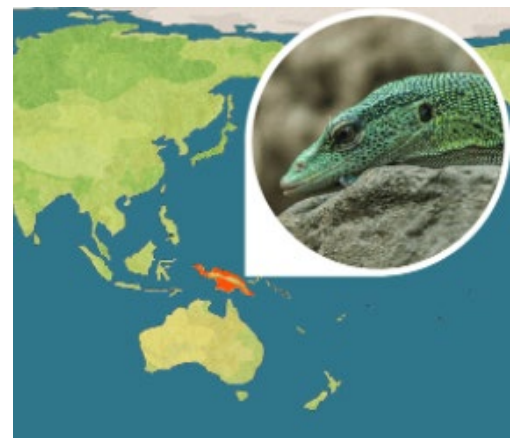
- Incubation/Gestation: 154-190 days. Once incubation period is over, the female will come back to release the hatchlings.
- Fledging/Parenting: Little parental care after eggs hatch. Eggs are actually laid in termite nests so when they hatch, they have an immediate source of food.
- Clutch/Litter Size: 2-4 eggs.
- Breeding Behaviors: Reach sexual maturity at 2 years. Known to have aggressive mating behaviors. Use chemical signals to find mates (and prey). Can breed up to 3 times a year.

Habitat and Range

- Habitat: Low elevations, tropical habitats. Lots of forest, found in trees and at the base of trees in thick vegetation or vines.
- Range: Indonesia; Papua New Guinea (main island).

Conservation

- IUCN Status: Stable
- Contributing Factors: Little to no predators. Under protection in Indonesia but are still illegally traded.



Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Subphylum: Vertebrata
- Class: Reptilia
- Order: Squamata
- Family: Varanidae
- Genus: *Varanus*
- Species: *V. prasinus*

Interesting Facts

- Emerald Tree Monitors are highly specialized tree-dwellers. They use their tail as a fifth limb!