

Crocodile Monitor

Varanus salvadorii



Physical Characteristics

- Crocodile monitors are large in size with blackish/green bodies. Depending on where the lizard originates, the coloration may differ.
- Coloration: Black/green with yellow spots
- Sexual dimorphism: Crocodile Monitor Lizards have various small details in sexual dimorphism such as females have slightly longer abdomens and males have slightly wider chests and larger heads.

Size

- Length: 8 feet
- Weight: 44 pounds

Lifespan

- Wild: 15-20
- Zoos: 20 years

Behaviors

- Activity Cycle: Diurnal
- Lifestyle: Crocodile monitor lizards are arboreal apex predators. They are also scavengers and burrowers
- Vocalizations: Crocodile monitor lizards are able to make a hissing noise when threatened.
- Socialization: They tend to be solitary and will display aggression towards the same sex. Although, in human care, can be paired to form bonds with others.

Diet

- Wild: eggs, birds, fish, carrion
- Zoo: chicks, quail, mice, rats

Reproduction

- Incubation/Gestation Period: 5-8 months
- Clutch/Litter Size: 4-12

Habitat and Range

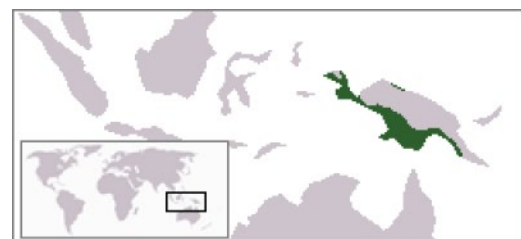
- Habitat: tropical and subtropical forests. Mangrove swamps, floodplain forests, riparian woodlands. They also spend a lot of time in trees.
- Range: lowland New Guinea to Papua and West Papua in Indonesia.

Conservation

- IUCN Status: least concern
- Deforestation and hunting for their skin and meat could eventually become a problem.

Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Class: Reptilia
- Order: Squamata
- Family: Varanidae



Courtesy of Animalia

- Genus: *Varanus*
- Species: *V. salvadorii*

Interesting Facts

- Monitor lizards are the only reptiles besides snakes to have forked tongues.
- Monitor lizards are the largest and longest lizards in the world. The Crocodile monitor is the third longest lizard behind its monitor relatives the Asian water monitor and the largest of all, the Komodo Dragon.
- Crocodile Monitors have flat serrated teeth, unlike most other monitors.
- They whip their tails for defense.