

Timor Monitor



What do we look like?

We are close relatives to the common lizard and are generally dark green or almost black in color. We have bright yellow spotting along our backs and a lighter straw-yellow color on our undersides. We have pointed noses, great eyesight, sharp teeth, and long tails. Our sharp claws make it easy for us to climb. We grow to be about 20-28 inches in length. We look like very tiny versions of a Monitor Lizard.



What do we eat?

We are carnivores, so we like eat other reptiles (geckos, and small snakes), crickets and other insects, small rodents, and scorpions. On occasion we eat egg yolks and even bees. Like most cold-blooded reptiles, we like to bask in the sun after we have a meal.



Where do we live?

We are mostly found in Indonesia, a group of islands in the South Pacific Ocean. Specifically we are found on the islands of Timor, Savu, and Rote. You can also find us in southern New Guinea, Samoa, and Australia (in North Territory, Queensland, and West Australia). We like warm and humid habitats with lots of trees to climb.



Something interesting about us is...

- Our true, scientific name is *Varanus timorensis*. But we are also commonly known as Spotted Tree Monitors.
- We are very shy around large animals, like humans. So when we see one we tend to hide under the nearest object we can find.
- Even though we can be shy, we are one of the most popular monitor lizards to own because we are so easy to care for.
- When laying eggs, females can lay up to 11 eggs in a clutch.

