CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Merten’s Water Monitor

Varanus mertensi

Merten’s Water Monitor is a large, semi-aquatic lizard native to northern Australia. It is characterized by its dark brown to black coloration adorned with creamy spots and an exceptionally long tail…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Varanidae
Habitat: Freshwater rivers, billabongs, and wetlands
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Near Threatened
Lifespan: 8-15 years
Weight: 1.0–2.5 kg
Scientific name: Varanus mertensi

Did you know?

- Merten’s Water Monitor is threatened by the invasive cane toad; ingesting these toxic amphibians can be fatal to the lizards.
- Merten’s Water Monitor can use its muscular tail as a powerful swimming aid, propelling itself rapidly through water. It is also known to bask on roc…

What I learned

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