

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
