CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Spiny-tailed Monitor

Varanus acanthurus

The Spiny-tailed Monitor, also known as the Ridge-tailed Monitor, is a medium-sized lizard native to the arid regions of northern and central Australia. Recognized for its robust body and distinctive…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Varanidae
Habitat: Arid rocky outcrops and savannas
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 10-15 years
Weight: 250-500 grams
Scientific name: Varanus acanthurus

Did you know?

- Despite their tough appearance, Spiny-tailed Monitors can squeeze into surprisingly narrow rock crevices to avoid predators and extreme heat.
- The spiny tail of this monitor is not just for show—it is swung powerfully to ward off threats. This species is known for its intelligence and curios…

What I learned

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