

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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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