



# SAVANNAH MONITOR

*(VARANUS EXANTHEMATICUS)*

## ANIMAL FACTS

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### WILD LOCALITY:

Throughout most of Africa, South of the Sahara Desert

### HABITAT:

Savannas, Wooded Areas, & Rocky Outcrops

### LIFESTYLE:

Terrestrial

### NATURAL DIET:

Insects, Invertebrates, Other Small Animals, & Eggs (primarily insectivorous carnivore)

### LIFE EXPECTANCY:

~ 8-12 years

### ADULT SIZE:

~ 2-4.5ft & 4-8kg

### ACTIVITY:

Diurnal (active during the day)

### CONSERVATION STATUS:

Least Concern

### THREATS:

Human Hunting, & Importation

### FUN FACTS:

Savannah Monitor lizards are a medium-sized monitor found only in Africa, and sustain themselves primarily on a diet of insects and other invertebrates. Their diet may contain roaches, termites, spiders, scorpions, as well as other small animals like rodents, birds, other reptiles and more. All monitor lizards are also known for consuming the eggs of birds and other reptiles as well. The term "monitor" was given to them (and their cousins) due to their alert and highly responsive nature, and they are some of the most intelligent reptiles in all the animal kingdom. All five senses are highly acute, and they are top predators in their natural ecosystem.