

## Varanus

### Classification

**Kingdom:** Animalia

**Phylum:** Chordata

**Class:** Reptilia

**Order:** Squamata

**Family:** Varanidae

**Genus:** *Varanus*



**For Further details:** [link](#) )

### Habit and habitat

**Asian Water Monitors (*Varanus salvator*):** These semi-aquatic lizards are found near water, including ponds, lakes, swamps, rivers, and coastal areas, as well as adjoining terrestrial habitats.

**Desert Monitors (*Varanus griseus*):** Inhabit arid environments such as sandy deserts, dunes, gravelly plains, steppes, and dry riverbeds.

**Diet:** Most Varanus species are opportunistic carnivores, consuming a variety of food items.

**Insects:** Young Savannah Monitors are primarily insectivores.

**Snails:** Adult Savannah Monitors have blunt teeth adapted for crushing snail shells.

**Small Vertebrates:** Species like the Asian Water Monitor feed on rodents, fish, and crabs.

### characteristics

- Commonly known as Monitor lizard.
- Animal measuring 60 to 90 cm in length is divided into head, neck, trunk and tail.
- Body is covered with smooth, small scales having large brownish, black and orange patches, which act like warning colours.
- Head is triangular and contains fixed eyes, nostrils and mouth. External ear opening present just behind head.
- Mouth gap wide with a long bifid smooth and protrusible tongue. Teeth large pointed, pleurodont and dilated at base.
- Osteoderms absent. Post-orbital arch incomplete.
- Trunk is large and stout. Tail is long thickened and serves as storehouse for fat.
- Forelimbs and hind limbs are stout, well developed and adapted for swift movement, but they can hardly lift the body up from the ground. Digits are clawed.