

Komodo Dragon *Varanus komodoensis*

== History ==

Megalania 5 m (15 ft), 5. Studies suggest that most known specimens would have reached around 2-2. The youngest fossil Megalania (*Varanus priscus*) is an extinct species of giant monitor lizard, part of the megafaunal assemblage that inhabited Australia during the Pleistocene. Megalania is thought to have had a similar ecology to the living Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) which may be its closest living relative. 4 m (6 ft 7 in - 7 ft 10 in) in body length excluding the tail, while some individuals would have been significantly larger, reaching sizes around 4.5 m (18 ft) or perhaps even 7 m (23 ft) in total length. It is the largest terrestrial lizard known to have existed, but the fragmentary nature of known remains make estimates highly uncertain

== Ecological characteristics == It is found in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. It was first described as a subspecies of the Timor monitor and was elevated to full species status by Glen Milton Storr in 1983. Later, the eastern subspecies of *V. scalaris similis* was classified as its own species, leaving the banded tree monitor restricted to northwestern Australia. As a result of their size, which is exceptional among reptiles, Komodo dragons are apex predators, dominating the ecosystems in which they live. Komodo dragons hunt and ambush prey; juveniles take small prey like invertebrates or birds, and adults favour larger mammals, occasionally even attacking humans. The diet of adult Komodo dragons mainly consists of Javan rusa and feral pigs, though they also eat considerable amounts of carrion. The crocodile monitor is an arboreal lizard with a dark green body marked with bands of yellowish spots. It has a characteristic blunt snout and a very long prehensile tail. It lives among the mangrove swamps and coastal rainforests of the southeastern part of New Guinea, feeding opportunistically on everything from birds and small mammals to eggs, other reptiles, amphibians and carrion. Its large, backwards-curving teeth are better adapted than those of most monitors for seizing fast-moving prey. Like all monitors, it has anatomical features that enable it to breathe more easily when running than other lizards, and is sometimes considered one of the most agile monitor species.

Anguimorpha These lizards, along with iguanians and snakes, constitute the proposed "venom clade" Toxicofera of all venomous reptiles. The group was named by Fürbringer in 1900 to include all autarchoglossans closer to *Varanus* and *Anguis* than *Scincus*. Some species of Varanidae, such as *Varanus komodoensis*, or the Komodo dragon, have been found to produce venom. Previous research has The Anguimorpha is a suborder of squamates. morphological subgroups

Ouwens was the child of Pieter Anthonis Ouwens, accountant in Amsterdam, and Caroline Reiniera Nagels. He studied at the Royal Military Academy in Breda from 1867. In 1871, he became lieutenant at the Infantry in the Dutch East Indies and by 1883 he had been promoted to captain. In January 1879 he married Johanna Vosmaer at Banda Aceh. They divorced a month after the birth of their only child in 1882 in Salatiga and Ouwens remarried Jeanne Dijkers in December 1883 in Purworejo. He remarried again in 1902 with Anna Josephina Soesman.

Komodo National Park The park was founded in 1980 to protect the Komodo dragon, the world's largest lizard. It is considered one of the world's 25 biodiversity hotspots. In 1991 the park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Man and Biosphere Reserve. Later it was dedicated to protecting other species, including marine species. The park includes the three larger islands—Komodo, Padar and Rinca—and 26 smaller ones, with a total area of 1,733 km² (669 sq mi), with 603 km² (233 sq mi) of it land. The park was initially established to conserve the unique Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*), first discovered by the scientific world in 1912 through Komodo National Park (Indonesian: Taman Nasional Komodo) is a national park in Indonesia within the Lesser Sunda Islands in the border region between the provinces of East Nusa Tenggara and West Nusa Tenggara.

The species inhabits trees in the savanna woodlands and forages for food in both trees and on the ground, with a diet consisting of insects as well as small vertebrates.

Varanus (Varanus) *Varanus*, commonly known as true monitors, is one of the 11 subgenera of the genus *Varanus*. All of its species are found in the Australasian realm, among which are the world's largest lizards.

Banded tree monitors have the most potently fibrinogenolytic... Throughout their long evolutionary history, varanoids have exhibited great diversity, both in habitat and form. This superfamily includes the largest-known terrestrial lizard, *Megalania* (~5 meters), and the largest extant lizard, the Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*, ~3 meters). Like all other monitor lizards, banded tree monitors possess venom glands in their lower jaws, giving them a noticeably venomous bite. The venom is an anticoagulant, and has two known mechanisms for disrupting blood clotting: by fibrinogenolysis (the destructive cleavage of fibrinogen) and by blocking platelet aggregation. The venom also causes hypotension. Monitor lizard venom is extremely complex and diverse due to the great range of ecological niches that they occupy. *Megalania* is thought to have had a similar ecology to the living Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) which may be its closest living relative. The youngest fossil remains of giant monitor lizards in Australia date to around 50,000 years ago. The indigenous peoples of Australia might have encountered *megalania* when they first arrived on the continent and might have subsequently

played a role in megalania's extinction. While originally megalania was considered to be the only member of the titular genus "Megalania", today it is considered a member of the genus *Varanus*, being closely related to other Australian... 53664d8e2e

Komodo dragon The largest extant population lives within the Komodo National Park in Eastern Indonesia. It is the largest extant species of lizard, with the males growing to a maximum length of 3 m (10 ft) and weighing up to 150 kg (330 lb). The Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*), also known as the Komodo monitor, is a large reptile of the monitor lizard family Varanidae that is endemic to The Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*), also known as the Komodo monitor, is a large reptile of the monitor lizard family Varanidae that is endemic to the Indonesian islands of Komodo, Rinca, Flores, Gili Dasami, and Gili Motang 53664d8e2e

Komodo National Park has been selected as one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature. The waters surrounding Komodo island contain rich marine biodiversity. Komodo island is also part of the Coral Triangle, which contains some of the richest marine biodiversity on Earth. 53664d8e2e == Family == 53664d8e2e

Peter Ouwens He is best known for writing the first formal description of the Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) in 1912. best known for writing the first formal description of the Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) in 1912. Ouwens was the child of Pieter Anthonis Ouwens, Pieter Anthonis Ouwens (14 February 1849, Amsterdam - 5 March 1922, Buitenzorg) was a Dutch scientist and Director of the Java Zoological Museum and Botanical Gardens 53664d8e2e

The biosphere reserve is situated in a transition zone between Australian and Asian flora and fauna habitats. Terrestrial ecosystems include open grass land,- woodland savannah, tropical deciduous (monsoon) forest, mangroves and quasi cloud forest. 53664d8e2e == Evolution == 53664d8e2e Crocodile monitors are threatened by deforestation and poaching, and are protected by CITES. Little is known... 53664d8e2e == Evolution == 53664d8e2e

Banded tree monitor "A central role for venom in predation by *Varanus komodoensis* (Komodo Dragon) and the extinct giant *Varanus* (*Megalania*) *priscus*". It is often referred to as the banded tree monitor or the spotted tree monitor. *Proceedings of the Varanus scalaris* is a small species of monitor lizard 53664d8e2e

The marine area constitutes 70.2% of the biosphere reserve and is characterized by a combination of strong currents, coral reefs and islets, which make navigation around the islands in Komodo National Park difficult and dangerous. Komodo has one of the world's richest marine environments, including over 260 species of reef building coral, 70 species of sponge, ascidians, marine worms... 53664d8e2e

Varanoidea Also included in the Varanoidea are the Lanthanotidae (earless

monitor lizards), and the extinct Palaeovaranidae. *Megalania* (~5 meters), and the largest extant lizard, the Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*, ~3 meters). Either synonymous with, or a subgroup of, the Varanoidea is a superfamily of lizards, including the well-known family Varanidae (the monitors and goannas) 53664d8e2e

Komodo Biosphere Reserve They exist nowhere else in the world and are of significant The Komodo Biosphere Reserve and National Park is situated between Flores and Sumbawa in Indonesia. It is renowned for its population of about 5,000 giant lizards, called 'Komodo dragons' (*Varanus komodoensis*). for its population of about 5,000 giant lizards, called 'Komodo dragons' (*Varanus komodoensis*). They exist nowhere else in the world and are of significant interest to scientists studying the theory of evolution 53664d8e2e

Varanus salvadorii 'A central role for venom in predation by *Varanus komodoensis* (Komodo Dragon) and the extinct giant *Varanus* (*Megalania*) *priscus*'. Its tail is exceptionally long, with some specimens having been claimed to exceed the length of the Komodo dragon, however less massive. It is the largest monitor lizard in New Guinea and is one of the longest lizards, verified at up to 255 cm (100 in). Proceedings of the National The crocodile monitor (*Varanus salvadorii*), also known as the Papuan monitor or Salvadori's monitor, is a species of monitor lizard endemic to New Guinea 53664d8e2e

== Description == 53664d8e2e Young Komodo dragons are vulnerable and dwell in trees to avoid predators, including cannibalistic adults, which young Komodo dragons also try to repel by rolling in feces. They take 8 to 11 years to mature and are estimated to live up to 30 years (or by some estimates as much as 62 years). Mating begins... 53664d8e2e Within this subgenus, the monophyletic clade comprised *V. panoptes*, *V. gouldii*, *V. rosenbergi*, and *V. spenceri* are collectively known as sand monitors. 53664d8e2e The oldest widely accepted member of Anguimorpha is *Dorsetisaurus* from the Late Jurassic of Europe and North America. In 2022, the genus *Cryptovaranoides* was described from the latest Triassic (Rhaetian) of England. *Cryptovaranoides* was recovered in the study as a crown-group anguimorph, and therefore the oldest crown group-squamate, 35 million years older than any previously known crown-group squamate. However, a 2023 study found that *Cryptovaranoides* most likely represents an archosauromorph that was only distantly related to squamates. 53664d8e2e In addition to Komodo Island, the biosphere reserve encompasses the islands of Rinca and Padar, as well as numerous islets. It also includes one of the world's richest marine environments with coral reefs. 53664d8e2e == Venom == 53664d8e2e It is also a WWF Global 200 Marine Eco-region, a WWF/IUCN Centre of Plant Diversity, one of the world's Endemic Bird Areas and an ASEAN Heritage Park. 53664d8e2e

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