



The Nile Monitor's head is gray-brown and marked with light-colored, V-shaped marks across the neck—these marks extend forward through the eyes. The fleshy, forked tongue is blue. The narrow neck is longer than the head.



The Nile Monitor's body is gray-brown and marked with bands of lighter-colored (often tan) spots with light speckles between them. Toward the end of the tail, the bands of spots fuse into solid bands.



Young Nile Monitors look nearly identical to adults. At hatching, they are already nearly a foot long.



FLORIDA INVADER: Nile Monitor Lizard

Report sightings:
www.IveGot1.org



The Nile Monitor lizard (*Varanus niloticus*), native to sub-Saharan Africa, has become established in the wild in coastal areas of Lee and Charlotte Counties in Florida due to releases or escapes of pets. There are also isolated populations in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, and individual lizards of several *Varanus* species have been captured in other areas. Nile Monitors are large, voracious predators that may grow to over 7 feet long. These large lizards eat the eggs of birds, alligators, crocodiles, and turtles and could impact many threatened and endangered species, including Burrowing Owls and sea turtles. They are opportunistic predators and will consume any prey they can subdue, including pets. They thrive in a wide variety of habitats near water, especially in and around urban areas, where they live in burrows near the water's edge. They are strong swimmers and spread via canal systems and coastal mangroves. Females lay eggs which they bury. Lifespan is 10-15 years.

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