

After the eggs are laid in termite mounds, the termites in sealing the mounds around the 'inert' eggs actually produce a near perfect incubator of high constant temperature and humidity.

Egg-laying in termite mounds has also been documented in *Varanus rosenbergi*, including by Cogger (1959), King and Green (1979), Wells and Wellington (1985): *Varanus niloticus* including by Cowles (1930); and *Varanus prasinus* including by Carlzen (1982) and Green (1986).

Lace Monitors have also been recorded as nesting in semi-hollow logs, where eggs are deposited in decomposing vegetable matter, including decaying wood. Although plant material has been found with Lace Monitor eggs, it is not certain as to whether or not it is intentionally put there by the nesting lizards.

SOME FINAL POINTS

Lace Monitors are among the hardiest lizards in Australia in terms of ease of keeping and relative lack of potential problems. This is on the assumption that the keeper has an adequate cage/s and knows the basics of keeping reptiles. I was able to keep the core seven Lace Monitors in good health at St. Ives for twelve months after I myself moved from the house. Irregular checks on the lizards (average one a fortnight) where cage maintenance and feeding was done as necessary, seemed sufficient over the twelve month period. (The house was sold after that period, so the lizards were passed on to Mr. Ken Sheppherd, who had by then himself constructed a suitable cage).

The longevity of the species and size enables a keeper to become attached to specimens (as 'pets') if such is desired. However due to their size, Lace Monitors may be harder to move from house to house, than other reptiles should the need arise.

In 1982, I moved from St. Ives to Redfern and was able to move all my snakes at the same time. The Lace Monitors couldn't be feasibly moved and so I effectively lost them, much to my regret.

The people named in this paper are acknowledged for their free giving of information (as noted) and their other contributions to herpetology. This paper would not have been possible had I not had the unfailing support of my parents who financed the construction of the "pits" used to house the Lace Monitors.

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RAYMOND HOSER has been actively involved in herpetology for 30 years. His most favoured lizards Lace Monitors (*Varanus varius*).



Photo: Len Hoser.

Circa 1975.