

Clutch of *Varanus caudolineatus* (Varanidae) – Smith (1988, *Western Australian Naturalist*, 17: 96.) reports a gravid *Varanus caudolineatus*, caught on 23 October 1986 near the Wandina homestead, and given to the Western Australian Museum, subsequently laid four eggs. Her post-oviposit body mass was 28g and the eggs mass was 9g. The eggs failed to develop.

We had a little more success. A gravid *V. caudolineatus*, caught near Ora Banda (30°24'S, 121°7'E) on 1 December 2001, was returned to Perth and laid four eggs on 16 December 2000. The post-oviposit body mass was 10.6g and the four eggs weighed 9.6g. This female committed approximately 47.5% of her total body mass to four eggs, whereas the female reported by Smith (1988) committed approximately 24% of her total mass to the eggs. In both instances four eggs were laid, which is one more than reported by Thompson and Pianka (2001, *Copeia*, 2001: 443–458.) for most *V. caudolineatus*.

These four eggs were three-quarters covered in vermiculite and placed in a

two-litre plastic container. This plastic container was placed in a styrene box, on top of a four litre plastic box filled with water containing an aquarium heater. The ambient air temperature in the box was maintained between 29–31 °C by the aquarium heater. It is most probable that the temperature of the vermiculite and the eggs was higher than the ambient air temperature in the styrene box as it rested directly on the heated water filled container. The eggs hatched on 2 March 2001 after a period of 77 days, which is appreciably shorter than the period that Thompson and Pianka (2001) predict, as the incubation period at 30 °C. This suggests the incubation temperature was higher than 30 °C.

The sizes of the neonates were:

| Mass (g) | SVL (mm) | Tail (mm) |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 2.1 | 54 | 61 |
| 1.8 | 54 | 61 |
| 1.9 | 54 | 61 |
| 2.0 | 57 | 63 |

Neonates fed on small crickets and cockroaches after five days.

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