

Predation on an eastern water dragon (*Intellegama lesueurii*) by a heath monitor (*Varanus rosenbergi*) in Royal National Park, Australia

Arnaud Badiane*

Intellegama lesueurii lesueurii (Gray, 1831), commonly known as the eastern water dragon, is a large agamid lizard (SVL up to 90 cm for males) inhabiting margins of waterways along the eastern coast of Australia. Here, I report a predation event on a large adult male eastern water dragon by a heath monitor (*Varanus rosenbergi* Mertens, 1957). Heath monitors are large varanid lizard (SVL up to 1.5 m) inhabiting open woodlands, and are distributed in south-western and southern Australia, with some isolated populations occurring in south-eastern Australia. This predation event took place on October 8th 2016 around 1:30 pm in Royal National Park, Sydney (Australia). This event

was spotted along the coast track, north of the park on sandy soil between the sparse vegetation (latitude: -34.118227; longitude: 151.138766). The heath monitor froze in front of us with its prey in the mouth. The water dragon's eye was still moving leading us to think it was still alive at that moment. We took a few pictures for approximately one or two minutes and left to minimise the disturbance (Figure 1).

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Figure 1. Photograph of a heath monitor (*Varanus rosenbergi*) preying on an adult male eastern water dragon (*Intellegama lesueurii*) in Royal National Park, Sydney, Australia.