

AMBOINA SAILFIN LIZARD

Hydrosaurus amboinensis

Schlosser, 1768



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Reptilia

Order: Squamata

Family: Agamidae

No recorded subspecies



NOT LISTED

RARE



NOT LISTED

Identification: The largest member of its family, reaching up to 1 m in total length (tail included). Males have a sailfin-like spiny dorsal crest extending on upper tail. Coloration is dark green to mottled green-brown to dark grey. Faint vertical flank bars.

Range: The species occurs in South-East Asia, from Central Indonesia (Sulawesi) eastwards to Moluccas and to New Guinea.

Habitat : Forests and woodlands, almost always near water.

Behavior: The species spends most of its time in trees but can run on water for short distances when threatened, like *Basiliscus* lizards. Feeds on fruits, leaves, insects.

Status in the wild: The species' status has yet to be assessed. It seems to remain fairly common in its range despite habitat loss and collection (minimal) for local trade.

In captivity: The species is globally rare in captivity, both in public and private collections. It is kept in only 10 European zoos and also rare in America and Asia. First captive breeding in Europe occurred in 1981. Since then breeding remained rare.