

TREATMENT OF MOUTH CANKER IN VARANUS NEBULOSIS

by Roger Meek

A large Varanus nebulosis was suspected of having symptoms of mouth canker when caseous material was seen on the jaw margins. When investigated further the mucous membranes were seen to be discoloured and swollen. Previously the lizard had not been feeding for three or four weeks, but this was taken to have been within the normal reptilian feeding pattern, but appears now to have been a further symptom of the infection.

TREATMENT

An antibiotic, terramycin was given by intra-muscular injection (dosage 1 ml = animal weight 19-20 lbs). This was repeated 24 hours later. The oral cavity was washed daily with a hydrogen peroxide solution. Following this, a penicillin ointment was smeared on the jaw margins, this was also repeated daily. Five days later the lizard resumed feeding and appeared to be recovering, although the discolouration of the mucous membranes were still evident. Fourteen days after treatment had began a third terramycin injection (1 ml) was given. By the third week the lizard appeared to have fully recovered.

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