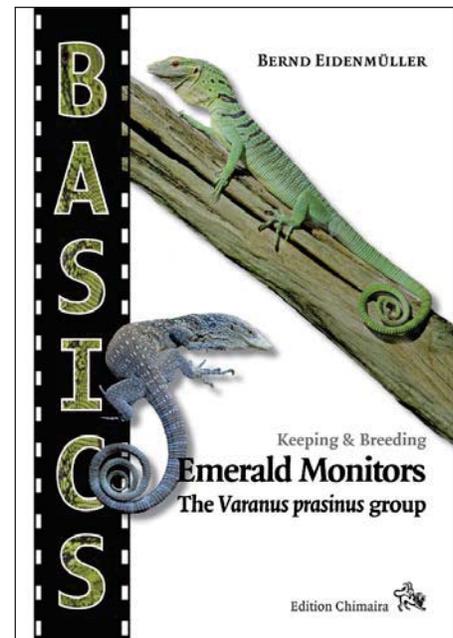

NEWS NOTES

New Book on the *Varanus prasinus* Complex

Continuing his long tradition and dedication to advancing monitor lizard husbandry, Bernd Eidenmüller has authored a new book on monitors, this time focusing on the keeping and breeding of members of the *Varanus prasinus* complex. Entitled “*Keeping & Breeding Emerald Monitors: The Varanus prasinus Group*”, and published by Edition Chimaira, this 94 page book is now available in both English and German languages. A thorough review of this book will appear in a future issue of this journal.

For additional information, see www.chimaira.de



Rosenberg’s Monitors Caught on Camera near Canberra

A breeding pair of rare Rosenberg’s monitors (*Varanus rosenbergi*) has been photographed near the city center of Canberra. The sighting includes documentation of egg laying in a termite mound. Amateur photographer Matthew Higgins staked out the pair and later identified what he claimed to be at least 14 hatchlings, counted on the basis of distinguishing facial marks. It was noted that the major factor in the decline of this species is predation and nest destruction from feral animals. The species is being considered for introduction to Mulligan’s Flat Woodland Sanctuary which is free of feral species.

Source: www.abc.net.au; 4 November 2016

Sightings of Nile Monitors on the Rise in Cape Coral

Sightings of the invasive Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*) have been increasing in the Cape Coral area

of southwestern Florida. More than thirty reports of the species have been received by authorities this year (though specific numbers for previous years were not provided) with seven in October alone. The city has begun placing traps for the animals and has reiterated its warning that, if seen, they should not be approached.

Source: www.nbc-2.com; 16 November 2016

Butaan Now on Exhibit at San Diego Zoo

A Butaan (*Varanus olivaceus*) is now on public display at the San Diego Zoo. The young animal was hatched at the Los Angeles Zoo the previous year from parents that had been illegally imported and confiscated by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. The San Diego Zoo is one of only a few accredited zoos in the USA to maintain this species, and one of the only facilities to receive captive-bred offspring from the Los Angeles Zoo.

Source: www.zoonooz.sandiegozoo.org; 26 July 2016

Oldest Captive Komodo Dragon Dies at Calgary Zoo

Loka, a 30 year-old female Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) and the oldest dragon kept in captivity, has died at the Calgary Zoo, having been moved there from Toronto Zoo two years earlier. She had been under care as a geriatric animal for some time with her health deteriorating over the past two weeks. She was considerably older than the now-oldest dragon, an unnamed specimen from an unnamed facility, at twenty-two years of age.

Source: www.upi.com; 27 July 2016

Komodo Dragon Euthanized

Jude, a nine-year old female Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) on loan to the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center from the San Antonio Zoo, was euthanized following complications from surgery.

She suffered from egg-yolk coelomitis, a condition that necessitated the removal of her reproductive tract earlier this year (see news notes, Biawak Vol. 10 No. 1). Her condition declined following the procedure and the decision was made to euthanize her. She arrived at the facility in 2012 as a genetic match for a male, Teman, originally from Denver Zoo.

Source: www.pilotonline.com; 19 July 2016

Unexpected Reproduction of Komodo Dragons at Virginia Aquarium

Two Komodo dragons (*Varanus komodoensis*) have hatched at the Virginia Aquarium & Science Center from a previously undiscovered nest. They had been laid by Jude, the facility's female who had her reproductive tract removed earlier this year due to complication and later died during recovery from surgery. Prior to the female's health issues, she apparently nested a clutch on exhibit that contained eighteen eggs which escaped the notice



Varanus bitatawa. Northern Sierra Madre NP, Luzon, Philippines. Photographed by **Stephanie Law**.

of both aquarium staff and cameras set to monitor her activities. Two live hatchlings were later found in the adult's exhibit, and are now being cared for off display. None of the other eggs are expected to hatch. Jude, who originated from the San Antonio Zoo, had been matched with a male named Teman on loan from Denver Zoo. The pair had produced other clutches of eggs though none proved viable. No future plans for the hatchlings were announced.

Source: www.pilotonline.com; 19 August 2016

Officials Remove Water Monitors from Bangkok's Lumpini Park

In an effort to reduce the number of Asian water monitors (*Varanus salvator*) living in the famed Lumpini Park of inner Bangkok, Wildlife Conservation Office officials with the Department of National Parks launched efforts to capture up to 40 *V. salvator* from the park in September. The lizards, which occur in large numbers in the urban park that is frequently visited and utilized by locals and tourists, have been deemed a nuisance, and captured individuals are slated to be transferred to a wildlife breeding facility in Ratchaburi. Critics of the effort argue that the level of care given at this facility is not adequate for the species.

Source: www.news.trust.org ; 20 September 2016

Arrests Made over Viral Video of Monitor Killing

Forest Department officials in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India, recently arrested two men identified from a viral video posted online which depicted people drinking blood collected from the slit throat of a live Bengal monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*). The men, who were selling the lizard's meat and blood, were arrested on various violations of the Wildlife Protection Act, which under Schedule II protects *V. bengalensis* from being hunted. Despite such protections, the species is regularly killed for its meat, blood and oil, as it is claimed to have

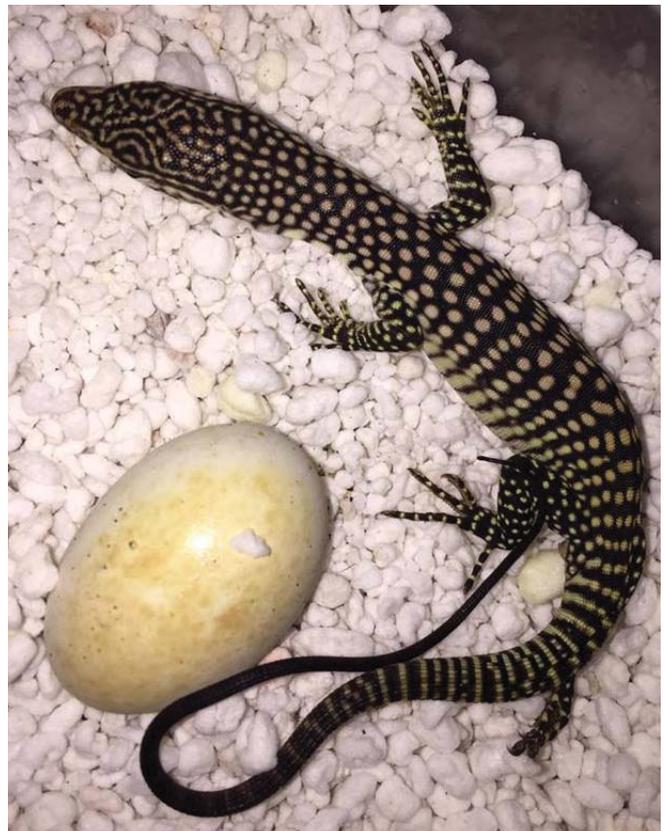
aphrodisiac properties and the ability to cure various ailments.

Source: www.dnaindia.com ; 28 October 2016

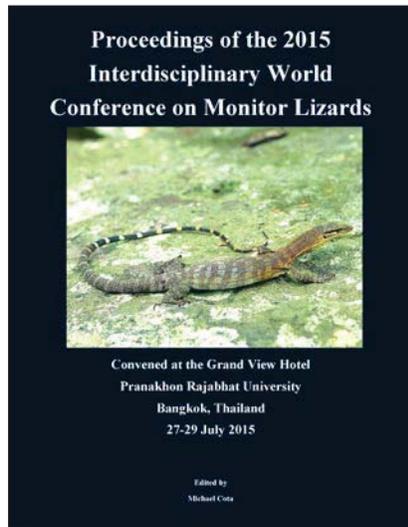
Komodo Dragon Treated for Reproductive Complications

A six-year-old female Komodo dragon (*Varanus komodoensis*) at the Denver Zoo (USA) was treated for dystocia and egg yolk peritonitis after several eggs it had retained ruptured within its reproductive tract. At first, zoo staff noticed abdominal swelling and weight loss even though the dragon's appetite had increased. Ultrasonography and endoscopy revealed the presence of blood within the abdominal cavity along with eggs. The dragon was operated on the following day to retrieve the eggs and potential sources for infection, with the veterinarians performing an ovariectomy to prevent future complications. It is reported to be recovering well from the surgery.

Source: www.livescience.com ; 29 June 2016



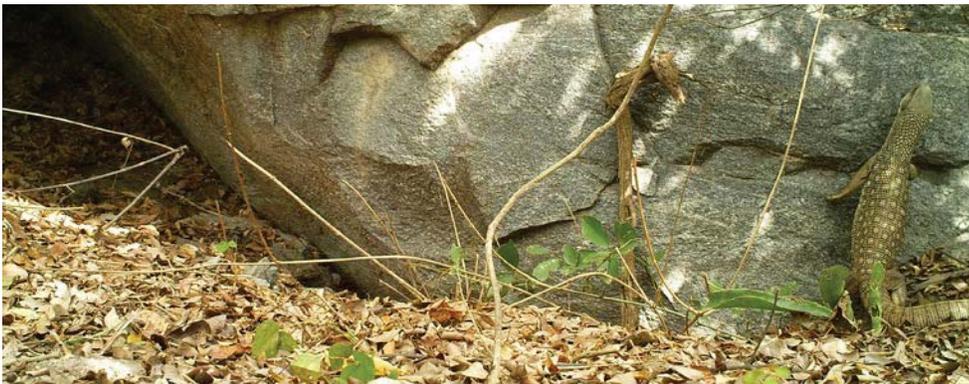
Varanus tristis orientalis hatchling. Photographed by Scott Andrew.



Proceedings of the 2015 Interdisciplinary World Conference on Monitor Lizards

Proceedings of the 2015 Interdisciplinary World Conference on Monitor Lizards will be available after 28 December 2016. The price will be \$35.00 USD plus shipping from Thailand. There are only a limited number of copies that will be available.

Please contact **Michael Cota** at Herpetologe@gmail.com to order and for further information.



Female *Varanus exanthematicus* in Dawa, Ghana on 1 December 2016 displaying possible scent-marking behavior. This individual was observed copulating with a male two days later. Camera trap photographs by **Daniel Bennett** and **Baturi Ali**.