**VARANUS SALVATOR** (Asian Water Monitor) MIGRATION.

At 1600 h on 5 July 2007, a large Asian Water Monitor, *Varanus salvator* (ca. 1.8-2.1 m total length) was seen swimming between two small, uninhabited islands located off the southern coast of Railay, Krabi Province, southern Thailand (Figure 1). Observations were made ca. 2.4 km out from the coast of Railay while traveling through the archipelago in a long-tail boat. There are many small islands in the region, most of which are bordered by sheer limestone cliffs (see Figure 2).

The *V. salvator* was first seen approaching a small island from another island ca. 900 m away. When its path became obstructed by the boat, it swam around the boat and then cut back towards the island. It was clear that the monitor was determined to get to this island, rather than swimming out in the open water randomly. The *V. salvator* was a very strong swimmer and did not appear fatigued despite the relatively turbulent waters experienced that day, or the distance traveled.

ROSS BORDEN

Figure 1. *Varanus salvator* swimming in open water between islands

Figure 2. Example of the limestone cliffs which border many of the small, uninhabited islands off the coast of Railay