



the study and  
responsible  
captive care of  
monitor lizards

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volume 4 number 4

june 96

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Renewal is due if the mailing label  
reads:

EXPIRES 4(4)



# Varanews

## Current Events

The original concept behind Varanix was to help varanophiles worldwide provide the best possible captive environment for their monitors. A lot of planning and reorganization has gone into how we hope to best fulfill this goal. What follows are some of the conclusions, methods, and projects underway. Let us know if you have questions or see any projects that interest you.

- **Komodo Dragon Report Kit:**  
We're putting together a basic info kit to send in response to requests from grade school kids doing reports on *V. komodoensis*. It will include a list of resources, reprints and original material. Help wanted.
- **Newsletter species section:**  
In each issue of *Varanews*, we would like to include a section of facts, figures, and anecdotes for each of the more commonly kept monitors. We are looking for people to prepare these regular columns on one (or more) species.
- **Monitors and the law:**  
Help wanted compiling & maintaining a list of state and local laws governing monitors.
- You'll be seeing regular mention of email, internet, etc. A major part of

Varanix restructuring has been integrating technology that saves time and expense in managing and communicating information about monitors. There are some tremendous benefits for the labor-intensive tasks associated with administration and newsletter production. Correspondence is one of the best examples: email is dozens times faster than letter mail, not to mention cheaper. As mail volume increases, the time and cost savings become quite significant, resources better spent on other projects.

- **If you're online:**  
When possible, please use email for correspondence. Article submissions may also be sent as attachments. If you have access to email, but are unfamiliar with it, we'll be glad to help.  
Varanews is available in Adobe Acrobat format. See inside front cover for more details.  
Please forward any monitor-related message threads, articles, etc. you find for possible inclusion in Varanews. [Please include the source(s) so we can obtain permission to publish the material.]
- **If you're not online:**  
but you're interested in a basic explanation about the internet/Web,

send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Varanix and ask for a copy of the Factual Information Bulletin on the internet and small business. The document includes basic explanations, case histories and real world uses of different aspects of the net, online services, etc.

## Newsletter Content

What do you want to read about? Better still, you are invited to share your personal experiences and observations in these pages. Even a few paragraphs on behavior you observed, or a husbandry tip, is significant.

Mark Bayless has assembled a wealth of varanid-related literature and will continue reporting on findings of interest covering a broad range of topics. He is also beginning to network Varanix with Australian, Dutch, German and Russian varanid societies.

My contribution in upcoming issues will report on *Varanus niloticus* living outdoors. Topics include habitat design, materials and construction tips, plants, feeding, and behavior observations.

There's more to talk about, but there's more to do first.

Greg Naclerio, Editor



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Frequently Asked Questions

### Inquiries, Correspondence

- **Letters to Varanix** often contain information of general interest to Varanews readership. Please indicate if you do **not** want to be quoted or have your correspondence reprinted in part or otherwise. (The author will always be contacted prior to publication of questionable or controversial topics.)
- Requests for personal responses **must be** accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope and will be handled as time allows.

### Submissions for Publication

#### Editorial

- Computer files preferred; PC/Mac. Typed or handwritten submissions are, of course, most welcome.
- Translations of non-English articles must be accompanied by a copy of the original work, including bibliography.
- Indicate any special conditions of publication, such as withholding mention of name or crediting a source.

#### Graphics & illustrations

- 35 mm slides/negatives, prints, illustrations
- Electronic format: TIFF, EPS, PhotoCD
- Photos should be as clear as possible. Slightly light/overexposed photos are better than dark/underexposed ones.
- All materials should be labelled with appropriate copyright, name and phone/address.
- Include photo captions

#### Email submissions

Prior to sending files, please contact us via email for file prep guidelines, etc. Subject: submissions

### Back Issues (some only available as photocopies)

\$1.50 Number 0  
\$2 each Vol(num) 1(1) - 1(8), 2(1) - 2(6), 3(1) - 3(6), 4(1)  
\$4 each Vol(num) 4(2/3), 4(4)

### What you read in these pages ...

Articles appearing in Varanews represent the opinions of the respective authors. Though best efforts are made to ensure accuracy of contents, the reader must recognize that much of the information is based on individual personal experiences and therefore difficult to verify.

**The reader is well-advised to evaluate everything heard and read, regardless of the source.** Consult as many references as possible and never attempt any husbandry technique that is unfamiliar or that you are not confident you are capable of performing. **This is especially true of medical procedures or when safety (monitor, personal and public) is involved.** If you read something in these pages you do not understand, question, or can add to, you are urged to respond for the benefit of other readers.

## CONTACTING VARANIX

Using the appropriate address below will speed up handling of your correspondence.

### Memberships, Back Issue orders:

Varanix  
8726 S. Sepulveda Bl. #243  
Los Angeles, CA 90045 USA  
Make check or postal money order in US funds to: Varanix

### Inquiries, Correspondence, Submissions:

Mark Bayless  
c/o 1678 Shattuck Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94709 USA

email: [varanews@aol.com](mailto:varanews@aol.com)

### Membership

One-year membership in Varanix includes subscription to this newsletter and other supplemental publications as they become available. Annual rates to receive Varanews:

	printed version	digital version*
Individual	\$20	\$14
Institutional	\$25	\$19

#### NOTES:

**Annual Rates** are global.

**Digital version:** Varanews is available in Adobe Acrobat® format via email or Web/ftp site.

Send email for details, Subject: Acrobat

**What is it?** The Acrobat file looks like the printed version and is compatible with PC, Mac and Unix systems. The file can be viewed on screen or printed on a laser printer, inkjet, etc.

\* **Why the lower rate?** The reduced rate reflects a portion of the annual production and postage savings.

**Renewal** is tracked by newsletter volume(number) and not by date.

**Example:** A mailing label with

**EXPIRES 4(2)**

means expiration after vol 4, num 2 and not April 2nd or 4 February.

### Reprinting parts of Varanews ...

The contents of Varanews may be reproduced for inclusion in the newsletters of herpetological societies with the following provisions:

- the material is reproduced in the original context without change
- appropriate credits are given
- a copy of the publication is sent to Varanix



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**Managing Editors**

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Mark Bayless  
Michael Balsai  
John Adragna  
John Turnipseed



## The Monitors Seen During a Short Trip to Singapore and West Java

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13 Springwood Drive,  
Henbury, Bristol,  
BS10 7PU England.

John Deas,  
23 Cranham Road,  
Henleaze, Bristol,  
BS10 7EF, England.



In late 1991 we spent 3 weeks traveling around Singapore and Western Java. During this time monitors were seen both in the wild and in captivity. Captive animals were seen at three zoos, in the animal markets of Java, and also in an Indonesian animal exporter's facility in Jakarta, Java, where they were being held prior to export.

### Singapore

We were very surprised by the numbers of salvator, or water monitors, *Varanus salvator*, that we saw in Singapore. This species was particularly common in and around the zoo where areas of primary rain forest still remain. In all, we saw 6 specimens within the zoo and at the orchid gardens close to the zoo and 2 specimens in the botanical gardens. It is likely that these specimens were far less timid and used to the presence and noise of tourists. It was interesting to note that two color phases were seen; a black morph living loose within the confines of the zoo, seen sharing an enclosure with

red-eared sliders and rhino iguanas, *Cyclura cornuta*, and the more normally encountered two banded form. We also noted that no large salvator monitors were seen in the wild which might indicate that large monitors avoid heavily populated areas or that larger monitors are killed for their meat/skins. Salvator monitor skins were very much in evidence in Singapore's plush department stores and the shops attached to the crocodile farms. If the lack of large monitors was indeed due to them being killed for their skins this is most worrying.

Komodo dragons were also exhibited at the zoo, maintained in a large cage with an outdoor area and an air conditioned indoor room allowing the animals to escape from the mid-day heat. These monitors appeared, if anything, a little too well cared for and seemed a little overweight in comparison with the animals seen later in the trip at the Ragunan Zoo in Jakarta.

A more detailed account of the other reptiles seen on this trip to Singapore can be found in an earlier article (Edwards and Deas, 1992).

### Java, Indonesia

Our stay in Java began with four days in Jakarta, which included visits to the Ragunan Zoo, a reptile exporter's premises and a visit to one of the "Pasar burongs", or bird markets.

The Ragunan Zoo is about 10 miles from the center of Jakarta. It contains a large collection of birds, mammals and reptiles. The cages, particularly those for the mammals, were unfortunately no where near as well designed or spacious as those seen at the Singapore Zoo. The reptile collection contained a number of rarities, notably an albino crocodile and a very impressive group of Komodo dragons, *V. komodoensis*, housed in several large outdoor pits with large mounds of rocks in the middle and a cave/inner area where they retreated at night. The dragons here were very alert and active, often prowling their enclosure. They appeared far leaner than the animals seen earlier at the Singapore Zoo. This factor could, in part, account for the Ragunan Zoo's success in breeding this species (see: Lilley, 1989).

We also saw a number of wild salvator monitors living in the open grounds of the zoo, particularly around the ponds and moats surrounding many of the cages. We were hoping to see some of the rarer Indonesian monitors kept at the zoo, including the Timor monitor (*V. timorensis*), green tree monitor (*V. prasinus*), crocodile monitor (*V. salvadorii*), and a number of other monitors found in Irian Jaya. Unfortunately, none were on display.

The sidebar is used to highlight noteworthy facts and figures. The arrows next to a notation indicate the number of columns away the reference text is found.

<< salvator skins are prevalent in Singapore's plush department stores.



< salvators living wild in open grounds of zoo.



While in Jakarta, we visited two of the city's bird markets. A number of reptiles were also offered for sale, including some sub-adult *salvator* monitors which were sold for their meat and skin rather than for the pet trade. These animals were held in very small chicken wire cages which were littered with feces and shed skin. We were also told by the stall holders that they could obtain many other species of monitor should we want them.

We visited one of Indonesia's largest reptile exporter's facility in a suburb of Jakarta. A mind-blowing assortment of reptiles were held here for export to the USA, Japan and Europe. The selection of monitors available was particularly impressive, reportedly having been collected from Sumatra, Kalimantan and Irian Jaya. Several large crocodile monitors, *V. salvadorii*, were held in large aviary-type enclosures. Most smaller specimens were held in small plastic laundry baskets. We were shown a beautiful hatchling Dumeril's monitor, *V. dumerili*, and a number of fabulous blue-tailed monitors, *V. kallabeki*, which we had not seen before nor have seen since. I believe they are occasionally seen in the USA.

We left Jakarta and headed east to Bandung. Situated in the volcanoes and mountains, it was considerably cooler than Jakarta, which is at sea level. We did not see any wild monitors in and around this area and assumed it was probably too cool. A number of specimens were on exhibit at the Bandung Zoo. Unfortunately, the zoo was in a very run down condition, though the reptiles fared somewhat better than many of the other animals. A number of *salvator* monitors were housed in a large outdoor pit (photo at right). This surprised us



somewhat because of the cool climate; we felt it was too cool for monitors to live outdoors. However, the monitors appeared active and in good health, although we did see their ribs as they spread basking. Perhaps they are more tolerant of cool conditions than we give them credit for.

We also noticed that some young estuarine crocodiles bred at the zoo three years earlier were

considerably smaller than the three year old crocs seen in Jakarta and Singapore. This might indicate that although reptiles can survive and breed in these cool conditions they fail to thrive and grow at a far slower rate than their counterparts in warmer climates.

In all, we were pleasantly surprised at how common *salvator* monitors, *V. salvator*, were in both Singapore and parts of Java. Unfortunately, the skins of many monitor species (including Timor and crocodile monitors) were also commonly available in the form of handbags, boots, jackets and wallets in many shops. The numbers of animals slaughtered for this purpose must be huge and almost certainly unsustainable. In comparison, the numbers of animals being exported from this area to herpetologists worldwide is likely to be very small (See: Sprackland, 1989; Edwards & Deas, 1993, for discussion).

Photos by authors.

#### References

- Edwards, J.P. and J. Deas. 1992. The reptiles seen on a visit to Singapore. *The Herpetile* 17(3): 107-110.
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- Lilley, G. 1989. Notes on breeding of the Komodo Dragon. *The Herpetile* 14(4): 167-168.
- Sprackland, R. 1989. Endangered Species and placing the blame: What statistics say about the real causes of animal extinction. *The Vivarium* 1(4):40-44.



>  
monitors for  
export include  
*salvadorii*,  
*dumerili*, and  
*kallabeki*

>>>  
skins of  
Timor and  
crocodile  
monitors  
commonly  
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boots, jackets  
and wallets



## A Varanid Visit to Washington, DC

Article: John Adragna, Mark Bayless  
Photos: Antinina Roslokken

We traveled to Washington, DC for a 2-day visit (August 24-25, 1994), to meet Dr. Kevin de Queiroz, Assistant Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians at the Smithsonian Institution, and to visit with Mr. Trooper Walsh, Reptile Keeper at the National Zoo. Our primary reason for the visit was to see the preserved varanid collection at the Smithsonian and the Komodo dragons (*Varanus komodoensis*) at the zoo.

We left Staten Island, New York at 5 AM, arrived at Penn Station in Washington, DC at 10:30 AM, and took a taxi the dozen or so blocks to the Smithsonian Institution. At the museum, we met Dr. de Queiroz and he gave us a tour of his department, including the "wet collection" where some 250,000 alcohol-preserved as well as skin specimens are stored for examination. On this day, some workers in the museum were in the process of "topping the bottle", an annual process where all the specimen bottles are topped with alcohol, so that none of the specimens desiccate or rot.

Dr. de Queiroz showed us where the *Varanus* specimens were located. We were primarily interested in the Asian water monitor (*V. salvator*) and African monitor lizards (*V. albigularis*, *V. exanthematicus*, *V. griseus*, and *V. niloticus*). We then gathered up the specimens we wished to examine, photographed them, and then returned them to the wet collection room. John and Mark wanted to examine all of the *V. salvator* specimens available for both site distribution and pattern variances. Antinina was the photographer. Though somewhat surprised we had spent all this money to travel to Washington DC to take pictures of a bunch of dead lizards, she was a good sport about it never the less. (Put that way, it did seem a bit crazy.)

At about 1 PM, Chris Nelling arrived, a fellow *Varanix* member, who was interested in *V. indicus*.

We proceeded to hold a mini-varanid meeting right there in the small office. Dr. de Queiroz showed Chris where the specimens of mangrove monitor (*V. indicus*) and Timor (*V. timorensis*) specimens were, who then proceeded to photograph the specimens. Having worked up an appetite, we all decided to have lunch at the cafeteria downstairs.

After lunch, it was time to photograph the 40 or so specimens of *V. salvator* that we had come to see. Mark went to the library and was graciously given permission to browse for any reprints, books, and journals on varanids. John and Antinina continued photographing and labeling wet specimens, a time consuming and tedious task (not to mention the smelly, alcohol-soaked fingers). The specimens were in very good condition, despite the fact some were collected a hundred or more years ago. One of the benefits of a collection of well-preserved specimens is the opportunity afforded both amateurs and scholars to perform comparative studies as new discoveries are made, perhaps even identifying a new species (which is not all that uncommon!).

It was near 5 PM when we finished our work. We thanked Dr. de Queiroz for his hospitality, kindness and helpfulness and ventured into other parts of the museum, especially the dinosaur and fossil exhibits. Later, we took a taxi to our hotel and reviewed what we had done that day. Exhausted, we retired to bed around midnight.

The next morning, we took a taxi to the National Zoo and went directly to the Reptile House to ring for Trooper Walsh. We were escorted through concrete corridors and steps and found Trooper in a basement room cleaning up. After introductions, we were shown where, just a day

earlier, footage of a "hand-crafted" Komodo dragon nest was shot for a film (Discovery Channel, *Fangs: Komodo Dragons*). After looking in on three-day old Komodo dragon hatchlings, we proceeded upstairs to meet Dr. Dale Marcellini, Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians at the National Zoo, along with several other staff members. Trooper demonstrated how they measure the amount of growth of the Komodo dragon hatchlings by "photocopying" them on the copy machine.



Dragon Dörjgs 2/95

They found this the least stressful manner for recording growth data on the fragile hatchlings.

On to the incubation room, where we were fortunate to witness one hatchling pipping the shell! A number of juvenile Komodo dragons were housed in a corridor behind the public display. We were able to "meet" a four foot female, quite tame and very curious about people. She was very inquisitive, coming to Trooper when he opened the enclosure door. We were able to pet and stroke her on the head and body without any display of anxiety or nervousness on her part.

After this excitement, we visited the outdoor enclosure where male and female adults reside in a heated, L-shaped greenhouse. The female was hiding under a log and not visible. The male was resting half-in/half-out of a metal 55

< keep growth records by photocopying monitors on copy machine

<<< The Smithsonian has about 250,000 alcohol-preserved and skin specimens



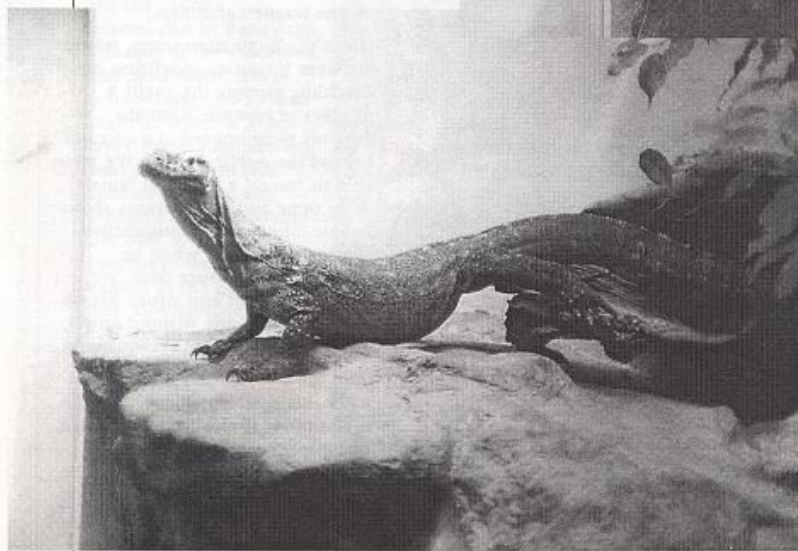
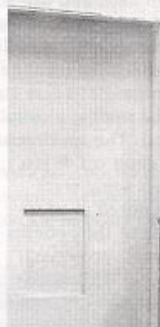


Trooper gave him another chicken, and it too disappeared. The lizard then became more active, walking into the direct sun rays coming into the enclosure.

We enjoyed watching him for another 30 minutes (in spite of the 100 degree Fahrenheit temperature and 100% humidity in the 6 x 6 foot glass-enclosed staff access cubicle). We thanked Trooper Walsh for the tour and went through the Reptile House to see the public exhibits. We left the zoo an hour later for our return to Staten Island, where John and Antinina reside, and Mark was visiting for a week.

photos of  
Komodos at  
National Zoo  
in Washington  
DC

gallon drum. Trooper whistled to him a few times. The male was more alert, but did not move. We watched him, maybe five feet away, looking back at us. Trooper got out some dead chickens and whistled again. The 7.5 foot male quickly emerged from his hole and most enthusiastically came over to the glass door. Trooper held up an adult chicken, the male dragon opened his mouth and Trooper dropped the chicken in. The lizard effortlessly swallowed the chicken whole, with room to spare!



It should be no surprise that we enjoyed the visit very much. We learned much and saw many interesting and fascinating things. We would like to extend our appreciation and sincere thanks to Dr. Kevin de Queiroz and Mr. Trooper Walsh for their time, help and generosity. Without their kindness, this article could not have been written. A visit to the Smithsonian Institution and the National Zoo are a must when in the Washington DC area. (However, we do not necessarily recommend an August visit because the heat and humidity can be incredibly oppressive!)





### Young *Varanus salvator* Rescue

Bill Leonard

I would like to share my experiences with a recently "rescued" juvenile *Varanus salvator* to help show the importance of patience and of adapting to your monitor's particular personality traits and psychological state.

The *V. salvator* was found in a pet shop in pitiful shape. It had recently been frightened into running headlong into a cage decoration and had spent about a week in the care of a veterinarian to assist the healing of a small gouge above the right eye. Although the monitor was tame and fairly alert, it was precariously thin with his hips and spine clearly visible beneath dull, baggy skin. There was also no "meat" to the tail; it was simply skin stretched over bone. I was told it was "picking" at crickets, but nothing else. Despite all this, the little monitor (9.5 in. SVL, 24 in. TL) showed a certain willingness to survive. Having over 20 years experience with reptiles in general, and 10 years with monitors in particular, I decided to pay the money and take my chances.

### Sexual Maturation in *Varanus salvator* with Notes on Growth and Reproductive Effort

appeared in *Herpetological Journal*, Vol. 5, pp. 189-194 (1995).

In this paper, author Harry Andrews, of the Madras Crocodile Bank in India, presents "observations and measurement data of two groups of captives that have been monitored from the time of hatching" and relates "these findings to conservation and management programmes based on captive populations of *V. salvator*."

The synopsis: "In captivity, *Varanus salvator* attains sexual maturity when they are just over one metre in total length

I put him (I'm not sure of the sex but I'll call it "him") in a 15 gallon isolation tank with newspaper flooring, a heat source, hide spot, and water bowl. I also put 10 crickets in the tank. He ate the crickets over the course of a week, but none after the initial 10. I also offered canned cat food, cooked chicken, and a live adult mouse. He nibbled at the cat food and chicken and killed and ate the mouse. I also ran three fecal flotation tests that all came back negative. As expected with a stressed animal, he spent most of the time under his hide spot and very little time basking or exploring.

At the end of the isolation week, I moved him into a 48 x 20 x 14 inches (LxWxH) wooden enclosure with a screen front and top, pine bark floor, hide spot, bottom heat source, spot lamp with a Chromalux® bulb, fluorescent fixture with a broad spectrum tube, and a large water bowl (into which he defecates daily). Two days later, I noticed tapeworm segments in the water and successfully treated him with Droncit® orally at a dose of 5 mg/kg.

After this move he refused to eat for a week until I offered him cooked egg, which he ate early the next morning. Over the next several weeks, additional food items were offered, including pre-killed adult mice, frozen and thawed shrimp, and beef strips. Only the eggs and beef were accepted on a regular basis while the mice and cat food were totally ignored. I also noticed that all food would be ignored until early the next morning. During this time I fed him every two to three days just to get him on his feet again. Weight gain was first noticeable in the tail and only when this organ filled in did his midsection, back, and legs fill in.

After about six weeks, he had doubled in weight. He was eating on a regular basis although never during midday and never in my presence. I had to put his food in before I turned out the lights at night. He was also still very tame and his overall confidence level had grown (he wouldn't dash to his hide spot at my approach). At this point, I decided to try offering live pinkies to improve his diet as he still steadfastly refused live and pre-killed adult mice. The two pinkies I put in at night were both gone by morning. Over the next several weeks he began accepting and eating both pinkie, and pre-killed mice in front of me. He would do this both during his early morning forays (the mice were placed in his food bowl late the night before) and more recently during mid afternoon. To me, this is a good indication that he is finally acclimating after 2½ months. He has gone through two complete sheds and gained approximately two inches in length. He will also sit in the open and observe me when I'm in his enclosure. He also enjoys going out on a leash and harness to soak up a little sun. His eye is completely healed and his color has improved immensely.

Although I don't recommend taking in sickly or rundown animals, patience and careful attention to detail can often be the keys to success with such animals and the results are overwhelmingly rewarding. (originally submitted May 1994)

and 50cm snout-vent-length. Maturity can be attained at the end of two years. Males and females tend to grow throughout the breeding season. Egg-laying seasons are closely synchronized with those in the wild. No significant difference was noticed in clutch and egg sizes of younger females when compared to those of older and larger females."

See Notices section for the Croc Bank's address.

< fecal tests  
negative

< tapeworm  
segments in  
water

< refused food  
for a week  
after  
treatment

< doubled  
weight in 6  
weeks

report on  
captive  
*salvator*  
population at  
Madras Croc  
Bank

june 1996



## A Survey of Wildlife Trade in Guangxi and Guangdong, China

is the title of a report appearing in *Traffic Bulletin* 16(1), March 1996.

>>>  
salvator,  
jobiensis &  
flavescens  
seen in  
large  
quantities in  
markets

Among the statistics, *Varanus salvator* is unfortunately one of the species most prominently found in large quantities (p. 9, 12, 13, 14). Authors Li Wenjun, Todd Fuller and Wang Sung note the significant increase in "the incidence of wildlife in trade in southern China". The report is based on an investigation carried out from June to August 1994.

Water monitors were among the list of species most often

confiscated in both regions. During a visit to Nonggang National Nature Reserve (Longzhou, Guangxi), the authors saw 60-70 recently confiscated water monitors, having been illegally imported from Vietnam.

In both regions, water monitors were found in local markets, ranging in price from \$6 - 12/kg, about \$5/lb and less. (Bamboo rats were slightly cheaper at \$5 - 7/kg)

Water monitor meat is served in restaurants in both regions,

Guangxi known for its cheaper meal deals.

In addition to the large quantities of *V. salvator*, *V. jobiensis* (Sepik monitor) and *V. flavescens* (yellow monitor) were also seen in large quantities in markets in both regions and moderately seen at frontier trade sites.

TRAFFIC also publishes *Species in Danger* reports. For more information:

TRAFFIC International  
219c Huntingdon Road,  
Cambridge, CB30DL, UK

TRAFFIC USA  
1250 24th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

This is where members may place notices. Inclusion depends on available space and is at the discretion of the editors. Events and other time critical information must be provided at least 6 weeks before the beginning of Varanews publication month.



**Varanix Coffee Mugs:** One side is original Varanix logo in black & green. The other has the species names. \$5.95 per cup. S&H. Add \$3.50 for the first cup; \$1.50 for each additional cup (US & Canada only). Allow 3 weeks for delivery.

### BOOKS

**The Lizards of Australia and New Zealand.** Gray & Günther. 1995 hardbound reprint that represents "three attempts over the 31-year period from 1845 to 1875 to produce an illustrated account of the lizard fauna of Australia and New Zealand". Black & white lithographic plates of monitors include: *Hydrosaurus giganteus*, *Monitor gouldii*, *Oedatria ocellata*, and *Oedatria punctata*. Other monitors are also identified in locality data.

Several copies available. \$26 each (includes S&H). Mark Bayless, 1406 Holly St., Berkeley, CA 94703

### ORGANIZATIONS BREEDING MONITORS

#### National Zoo, Washington DC

You can help by supporting the Komodo Dragon Conservation Program. For more information about the program or to ask about the zoo's newsletter, *Dragon Doings*, contact:

Dr. Dale Marcellini  
Department of Herpetology  
National Zoological Park  
Washington, DC 20008

#### Madras Crocodile Bank, India

If water monitors interest you, the Bank has had numerous successful breedings and has been the locale for a number of papers and research studies. The Bank also publishes the herpetological journal, *Hamadryad*.

Annual subscription: US\$25. Make checks out to "Madras Crocodile Bank Trust" and send to:

The Centre of Herpetology  
Madras Crocodile Bank Trust  
P.O. Bag 4, Mamallapuram,  
Tamil Nadu 603 104 India

### INDEPENDENT RESEARCH STUDIES participation requested

**breeding activity** - I would like to hear from anyone whose has observed varanid breeding activity. This is in preparation of a paper. Mark Bayless, 1406 Holly St, Berkeley, CA 94703

**indicus** - Any information provided would be greatly appreciated. Goal is to improve husbandry & breeding data on mangrove monitor.

Joel Shaner, 110 Long Pine Dr., Madison Hts., VA 24572.

**salvator** - I am especially interested in information on and photographs/slides of Philippine Water Monitors, *V. salvator cumingi*, *V. s. nuchalis*, *V. s. mamoratus*, and any unusual color-patterned forms known.

Goal is to improve husbandry techniques and promote captive reproduction of Asian water monitor lizards. All information will be shared with the readers through Varanews.

John Adragna, 16 Milton Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10306.

**salvator** - Photos & data wanted. Immediate reply to your responses.

Neil Miner, 8125 Early Morning Way,  
Sacramento, CA 95842

### VIDEO

#### Komodo, Gray's & Bengal Monitors

Dr. Auffenberg describes and contrasts the behavioral ecology and feeding strategies of 3 markedly different species of monitors—the Komodo of eastern Indonesia, Gray's monitor of the Philippines, and the Bengal monitor of South Asia. The 60-minute video includes several film sequences of Komodos in the wild and is illustrated with color slides, graphs, and figures.

Contact: Duane Busick Video Productions,  
4400 Etter Rd., Bloomington, IN 47408 USA,  
(812) 336-8329.

### PRINTING

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### VARANID BIBLIOGRAPHY

Work is in progress on a multi-volume, comprehensive bibliography on the family Varanidae. We are soliciting literature (papers, book chapters, newsletter articles, etc.) from anyone who has published on varanids. When sending literature, it is extremely important that each citation be as complete as possible. For papers, include: journal title, date, volume & issue number, page numbers; for book chapters, include: book title, editor(s) name(s), publisher and city, date, and total pages in book. Publications can be sent to either of the editors.

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