

# BIAWAK

Volume 2 Number 4 - November 2008



ISSN: 1936-296X

## On the Cover: *Varanus komodoensis*

The *Varanus komodoensis*, depicted on the cover and inset of this issue were photographed by **Michael L. Peck** and **Dolores R. Fernandez** <http://www.wildlife-pix.com> in mid-morning on 5 February 1997 near Loh Liang, Komodo Island. First, a subadult dragon approached a Timor deer (*Cervus timorensis*) carcass, nosed around it for a while, then tore off some strips of flesh from the ribs. After scavenging for ca. 20 min, the subadult left the carcass. Soon after, an adult *V. komodoensis* approached the carcass and made a brief, unsuccessful attempt to swallow the lumbar spine of the deer. Total observation time for the adult individual was ca. 10 to 20 min.



---

# BIAWAK

*Quarterly Journal of Varanid Biology and Husbandry*

## **Editor**

ROBERT W. MENDYK

*Department of Herpetology, Bronx Zoo  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
2300 Southern Boulevard  
Bronx, New York 10460  
[odatriad@yahoo.com](mailto:odatriad@yahoo.com)*

## **Associate Editor**

DANIEL BENNETT

*School of Biology, Leeds University  
Leeds LS2 9JT, UK  
[mampam@mampam.com](mailto:mampam@mampam.com)*

## **Editorial Review**

BERND EIDENMÜLLER

*Griesheimer Ufer 53  
65933 Frankfurt, DE  
[bernd.eidenmueller@t-online.de](mailto:bernd.eidenmueller@t-online.de)*

RUSTON W. HARTDEGEN

*Department of Herpetology, Dallas Zoo  
650 South R.L. Thornton Freeway  
Dallas, Texas 75203, US  
[ruston17@yahoo.com](mailto:ruston17@yahoo.com)*

MICHAEL J. BALSAL

*Department of Biology, Temple University  
Philadelphia, PA 19122, US  
[Vze3vhpv@verizon.net](mailto:Vze3vhpv@verizon.net)*

JEFFREY M. LEMM

*Applied Animal Ecology Division  
Conservation and Research for Endangered Species (CRES)  
Zoological Society of San Diego  
15600 San Pasqual Valley Rd  
Escondido, CA 92027, US  
[jlemm@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:jlemm@sandiegozoo.org)*

MICHAEL FOST

*Learning Tutoring Center  
Georgia Perimeter College Clarkston Campus  
555 North Indian Creek Dr  
Clarkston, GA 30021, US  
[mfost@post.com](mailto:mfost@post.com)*

ROBERT G. SPRACKLAND

*Virtual Museum of Natural History  
Unit #4 2635 Prosch Ave W  
Seattle, WA 98119, US  
[robert.sprackland@gmail.com](mailto:robert.sprackland@gmail.com)*

MICHAEL COTA

*Thailand Natural History Museum, National Science Museum,  
Technopolis, Khlong 5, Khlong Luang,  
Pathum Thani 12120, TH  
[herpetologe@gmail.com](mailto:herpetologe@gmail.com)*

ANDRÉ KOCH

*Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig  
Section of Herpetology  
Adenauerallee 160  
D-53113 Bonn, DE  
[a.koch.zfmk@uni-bonn.de](mailto:a.koch.zfmk@uni-bonn.de)*

TIM JESSOP

*Department of Wildlife Conservation & Science  
Zoos Victoria  
Parkville, Victoria 3052, AU  
[tjessop@zoo.org.au](mailto:tjessop@zoo.org.au)*

---

## **INTERNATIONAL VARANID INTEREST GROUP**

**[www.varanidae.org](http://www.varanidae.org)**

The International Varanid Interest Group is a volunteer-based organization established to advance varanid research, conservation, and husbandry, and to promote scientific literacy among varanid enthusiasts. Membership to the IVIG is free, and open to anyone with an interest in monitor lizards and the advancement of varanid research. Membership includes subscription to *Biawak*, a quarterly journal of varanid biology and husbandry, and is available online through the IVIG website.

## Volume 2 Number 4 - November 2008

Geographical Distribution, Instinctive Feeding Behavior and Report of Nocturnal Activity of <i>Varanus dumerilii</i> in Thailand .....MICHAEL COTA, TANYA CHAN-ARD, SONCHAI MEKCHAI and SUTTINEE LAOTEAW	152
Observation of <i>Varanus salvator</i> from Koh Tao Island in the Gulf of Thailand .....PRATEEP DUENGKAE	159
Field Observations on <i>Varanus spinulosus</i> .....QUETZAL DWYER	162
<b>EDITOR'S NOTE</b> .....	146
<b>NEWS NOTES</b> .....	148
<b>NATURAL HISTORY NOTES</b> .....	169
<b>HUSBANDRY NOTES</b> .....	173
<b>TRANSLATIONS</b> .....	175
<b>RECENT PUBLICATIONS</b> .....	181

© 2008 International Varanid Interest Group



Juvenile *Varanus indicus*. Fai Fai Beach, Guam.  
Photograph by **Evan Miller** [h.evan.miller@gmail.com](mailto:h.evan.miller@gmail.com)