

BIAWAK

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On the Cover: *Varanus keithhornei*

The *Varanus keithhornei* depicted on the cover of this issue was photographed by **Mark Sanders** in Iron Range National Park, Queensland in November 2001. The specimen was first seen walking along the ground in a forested area around 1100 h near the smuggler's tree, a large landmark *Ficus* tree in Iron Range NP, before it ascended a small tree, where it was photographed before climbing up into the canopy.

Two additional *V. keithhornei* were observed on the same trip in 2001, both of which were initially seen on the ground before fleeing to the nearest tree. A follow-up trip to Iron Range NP in October 2003 failed to locate any *V. keithhorni*.

About the photographer: **Mark Sanders** (colonel_007@hotmail.com) has been a keen naturalist since a child and currently works as an environmental consultant specializing in terrestrial vertebrates. While based in Brisbane, he has widely travelled across Australia for personal interest and work purposes, resulting in direct observations of almost 1300 Australian vertebrates. His digital photography can be viewed at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/31350467@N04/>

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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.

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Varanus mertensi. Purnululu, WA. Photograph by **Mal Chandler**