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ABSTRACT
Most of the descriptive taxonomy of the genus *Varanus* pre-dates the introduction of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICSN) making the tracking of types a tedious effort. This catalog is an effort to fill a void in the taxonomy of the varanids by providing a list of the extant taxa, abbreviated synonymy, type specimens, type localities and relevant literature citations as far as is currently known. Type locality errors for several species are corrected. New lectotype and neotype specimens have been designated for *V. salvator celebensis* and *V. kordensis* respectively.

KEY WORDS
Monitor lizards; *Varanus*; types; type localities; distribution; new neotype; new lectotype.

INTRODUCTION
Varanid lizards have fascinated herpetologists for a long time. Monitors are different from most other lizards, possessing some anatomical and physiological characteristics more closely resembling birds and mammals than other lizards (De Lisle, 1996). The Varanidae are a family of lizards of some 70 species placed in a single genus, *Varanus*. Varanids are characterized by having well-developed pentadactyl limbs, movable eyelids, circular pupils, a visible external ear opening and a long, slender, deeply forked tongue. The family ranges from Africa to southern Asia, the Indo-Australian Archipelago, New Guinea, Australia and into the western Pacific islands. Monitors are primarily active, diurnal predators, although many also feed on carrion and a few eat fruit.

Although there have been many checklists of the genus *Varanus* (Mertens, 1963; Böhme, 2003; many websites), there has never been a list that includes both type localities and type specimens for all species. Cogger et al. (1983) provided a catalog (now 25 years old) of Australian species, but no such catalog exists for the entire genus. There is a need for an accurate compendium for the family Varanidae, identifying the type specimens for all validly published species names. A number of types that were “unknown” or thought to be lost have been rediscovered while previously unpublished details are provided for others. New type specimens (lectotype and neotype) are designated for *V. salvator celebensis* and *V. kordensis* respectively.

TAXONOMY
Keeping in mind the famous quote of Harold Cogger, “Taxonomy is a matter of opinion” (Golay, et al, 1993) based, of course, on the evaluation of the best evidence, the taxonomy used herein is my evaluation and I accept full responsibility for its use. The taxonomy used here is for the most part that found in Böhme (2003), with the following exceptions:

1) I recognize *V. beccarii* and *V. flavirufus* as full species.
2) There have been six new species described since Böhme’s publication: *V. boehmei*, *V. bushi*, *V. lirungensis*, *V. rainerguentheri*, *V. reisingeri* and *V. zugorum*.

3) I have adopted most of the recommendations of Koch et al. (2007) in their revision of the *V. salvator* complex.

This catalog is alphabetically ordered on the current species name, followed by the author and year of description. Type localities are those in the original description, except those in obvious error or those amended subsequently by authoritative sources.

Abbreviations of museums holding the types are as follows:

- AMNH – American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY, U.S.A.
- AMS (AM) – Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia
- ANSP – Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA, U.S.A.
- BMNH (BM) – Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom
- CM – Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.A.
- CUB - Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand
- EMKSN – Erevmann Museum Kasan State University, Kasan, Russia
- IRSNB – Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science, Brussels
- KIZ – Kunming Institute of Zoology, Kunming, China
- IRSNB – Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science, Brussels
- IRSNB – Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Science, Brussels
- MZB – Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense, Bogor (now at Cibinong), Indonesia
- NMSL – Natural History Museum Colombo, Sri Lanka
- NHMW – Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, Austria
- NMV – National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
- NHRM – Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm, Sweden
- NTM – Northern Territory Museum, Darwin, Australia
- QM – Queensland Museum, Brisbane, Australia
- PNM – Philippine National Museum, Manila, Philippines
- RMNH - Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, Netherlands
- SAMA – South Australian Museum, Adelaide, Australia
- SMF – Forschungsinstitut und Natur Museum Senckenberg, Frankfurt, Germany
- WAM – Western Australian Museum, Perth, Australia
- ZFMK – Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander König, Bonn, Germany
- ZMB – Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Germany
- ZMUC – Universitets København Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark
- ZMZ – Zoologisches Museum, Universität Zurich, Switzerland
- ZSIC – Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, India (formerly Indian Museum)

The definitions of the type categories Holotype, Syntype, Paratype, Lectotype and Neotype follow those given in the glossary and articles of the ICZN Code (ICZN, 1999).

In addition, I also use the following term: Iconotype - Some early 18th century species descriptions were done from paintings of live animals. More recently, some rare animals for which no museum
specimens existed were described accompanied by a photograph. Such pictorial types are termed iconotypes.
The synonymy in this paper is my own. I have deliberately omitted all lapsa, nomina nuda, etc., from the synonymy because these names are not available for use. The synonymy herein is limited to new descriptions. For a complete synonymy, reference should be had to Mertens (1963) and Böhme (2003).

**Designation of a lectotype for Monitor celebensis (Schlegel, 1844) (=V. salvator celebensis)**

Hermann Schlegel (1804-1884) was curator at the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie in Leiden when he described Monitor salvator celebensis. In his description (1844), he did not designate a holotype. He had available to him in the museum at the time two specimens of water monitor from Sulawesi, RMNH 3176, a female from unknown locality on Sulawesi, collected by V. Delden (date unknown); and RMNH 3179, a male collected in 1841 near Manado, Sulawesi, by E.A. Forsten. With the publication of Koch et al. (2007) and recognition of more than one water monitor in Sulawesi, it seems wise to recognize a type for the common form in North Sulawesi.

I have chosen RMNH 3179 to designate as the lectotype for this taxon. This represents the common phase, with large spots, of the Celebes Water Monitor.

**Designation of neotype for Varanus kordensis**

The original type specimen in Dresden (MTKD) was destroyed in World War II. The destroyed holotype of Varanus kordensis was from the Kordo (=Biak), Schouten Archipelago, Papua, Indonesia, and the designated neotype is also from Biak, Indonesia. Since both specimens were collected on the same small island, it is safe to assume that both represent the same taxon. Sprackland (1991) thought kordensis to be a “minor color variation” of V. prasinus. Except for a
live specimen in the Oklahoma City Zoo, it is not clear how many kordensis he examined. Jacobs (2002) examined four specimens in Germany and the Netherlands and concluded that the taxon is valid. He also had at his disposal several live specimens. Since neither of these authors had access to the type specimen, by then destroyed, it seems prudent to designate a new type from the original location in this catalog.

**Neotype:** RMNH 21009, female, Biak, Indonesia; don. L. van der Hammer, 1953.

**Diagnosis:** *Varanus kordensis* is distinguished from all other members of the *V. prasinus* group by the following combination of character states: (1) slender, arboreal body form (70-80 cm total length); (2) tail length almost twice body length; (3) nuchal scales keeled; color pattern reticulum of dark ocelli overlain on ground color, including legs and tail; (4) color yellow-olive to dark green; (5) midbody scales average 89, across the head 34; (6) light brown bands across belly.

**Description of neotype** (Figs. 2, 3 & 4):


![Fig. 2. Neotype of Varanus kordensis (RMNH 21009), dorsal view.](image)

Scale counts, measurements and proportion indices of the neotype are taken from Brandenburg (1983) as follows: (1) number of scales counted in straight line across head between corners of mouth = 38; (2) number of scales counted around base of tail = 47; (3) scales counted around midbody = 86; (4) number of transverse ventral rows of scales from gular fold to last uninterrupted row at anterior border of hind limbs = 72; (5) number of dorsal transverse rows of scales from posterior dorsal points of ear to gular fold then to anterior border of hind limbs = 105; (6) number of supralabials = 43; (7) number of scales around neck anterior to gular fold = 82; (8) number of ventral scales from chin to gular fold = 62; (9) relative length of tail compared to snout-vent length = 2.00; (10) position of nostril between eye and tip of snout = 1.16; (11) index for reduction of scales along tail = 2.04; (12) comparison of dorsal and ventral scale rows = 1.46; (13) position of
nostril - point on nostril to point of snout = 1.80; (14) relative length of head compared to width = 1.83; (15) relative length of head compared to depth = 2.75.

GENUS


Synonymy:

*Monitor* Lichtenstein, 1818, p. 66. Type species: *Monitor niloticus* (=*V. niloticus*). Name preoccupied by *Monitor* Blainville, 1816, with *Monitor teguixin* (=*Tupinambis meriani*) as type species.

*Varanus* Rafinesque, 1815, p.150, Palermo (*nomen nudum*).

*Psammosaurus* Fitzinger, 1826, pp. 21, 51. Type species: *Psammosaurus griseus* (Daudin, 1803), by monotypy.

*Polydaedalus* Wagler, 1830, p. 164. Type species: *Polydaedalus niloticus* (Linnaeus, 1766), by subsequent designation of Fitzinger, 1843.

*Hydrosaurus* Wagler, 1830, p. 164. Type species: *Hydrosaurus bivittatus* (Kuhl, 1820), by subsequent designation of Fitzinger, 1843.

*Empagusia* Gray, 1838, p. 393. Type species: *Empagusia flavescens* (Hardwicke & Gray, 1827), by monotypy.

*Odatria* Gray, 1838, p. 394. Type species: *Odatria punctata* (=*V. tristis*) (Schlegel, 1838), by monotypy.

*Pantherosaurus* Fitzinger, 1843, p. 19. Type species: *Pantherosaurus gouldii* (Gray, 1838), by original designation.

*Cylindrurus* Fitzinger, 1843, p. 19. Type species: *Cylindrurus punctatus* (=*V. tristis*) (Schlegel, 1838), by original designation.

*Agalmatosaurus* Fitzinger, 1843, p. 19. Type species: *Agalmatosaurus timorensis* (Gray, 1831), by original designation.

*Euprepiosaurus* Fitzinger, 1843, p. 19. Type species: *Euprepiosaurus chlorostigma* (Gray in Griffith 1831) (=*V. indicus*), by original designation.

*Pachysaurus* Fitzinger, 1843, p. 20. Type species: *Pachysaurus albicularis* (Daudin, 1802), by original designation.

*Rhinoptyon* Fitzinger, 1843, p. 20. Type species: *Varanus exanthematicus* (Bosc, 1792), by original designation.

*Regenia* Gray, 1845, p. 8. Type species: *Regenia albicularis* (Daudin, 1802), by original designation.

*Placovaranus* Féjérváry, 1927, p. 284. Type species: *Varanus komodoensis* Ouwens, 1912, by original designation.

*Indovaranus* Mertens 1942, 462: 16; 466: 240. Type species: *Varanus bengalensis* (Daudin, 1802), by original designation.

*Dendrovaranus* Mertens 1942, 462: 16; 466: 241. Type species: *Varanus rudicollis* (Gray, 1845), by original designation.

*Tectovaranus* Mertens 1942, 462: 16; 466: 242. Type species: *Varanus dumerili* (Schlegel, 1837), by original designation.

*Philippinosauru*s Mertens 1959, p. 228. Type species: *Varanus grayi* Boulenger, 1885 (=*Varanus olivaceus Hallowell, 1856*), by original designation.


**SPECIES LIST**

*Varanus acanthurus* Boulenger, 1885

*Varanus acanthurus acanthurus* Boulenger, 1885

**Distribution**: northern and western Australia, from vicinity of Broome to Gulf of Carpentaria.

*Varanus acanthurus brachyurus* Sternfeld, 1919  
**Distribution**: arid and seasonally dry regions of Queensland and eastern Northern Territory.

*Varanus acanthurus insulanicus* Mertens, 1958  
**Distribution**: Groote Eylandt and Marchinbar islands, Gulf of Carpentaria, Australia.

*Varanus albigularis* (Daudin, 1802)  
*Varanus albigularis albigularis* (Daudin, 1802)  
*Tupinambis albigularis* Daudin, 1802, p. 72. Type locality: unknown. Holotype: MNHN 6513, by original designation.  
**Synonyms**:  
*Varanus gillii* Smith, 1831, p. 16. Type locality: mountains of Graaf-Reinet and the Orange River. Types described from captives possessed by W. Gill, apparently not preserved.  
*Varanus exanthematicus capensis* Schlegel, 1844, p. 71, pl. 22, Figs. 3 & 4. Type locality: Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. Syntypes: RMNH 40286, RMNH 40288.  
**Distribution**: Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Zambia.

*Varanus albigularis angolensis* Schmidt, 1933  
*Varanus albigularis angolensis* Schmidt, 1933, p. 10. Type locality: Gauca, Biha, Angola. Holotype: CM S5967, by original designation.  
**Distribution**: Angola and adjacent parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Namibia.

*Varanus albigularis microstictus* Boettger, 1893  
**Synonym**:  
*Varanus exanthematicus ionidesi* Laurent 1964, pp. 1-5. Type locality: Kilwa, southern Tanzania. Holotype: MCZ 55470, by original designation.  
**Distribution**: East Africa, from southern Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia, south through Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, to northern Mozambique.

*Varanus auffenbergi* Sprackland, 1999  
**Distribution**: Roti Island, west of Timor, Indonesia.

*Varanus baritji* King & Horner, 1987  
**Distribution**: Arnhem Land and vicinity, Northern Territory, Australia.
Varanus beccarii (Doria, 1874)


**Distribution**: Aru Islands, Indonesia.

Varanus bengalensis (Daudin, 1802)


**Synonyms**:

*Tupinambis cepedianus* Daudin, 1802, p. 43. Type locality: unknown. Syntype: MNHN 2198.

*Lacerta argus* Daudin, 1802, p. 117. Type locality: unknown. Type: MHNP, lost.

*Varanus punctatus* Merrem, 1820, p. 59. Type locality: Bengal, India. No type designated.

*Varanus taraguira* Merrem, 1820, p. 59. Type locality: unknown. No type designated.

*Monitor gemmatus* Guérin-Méneville, 1829, pl. 3. Type locality: India. Type: MNHN. No specimen recognized.

*Monitor heraldicus* Gray, in Griffith, 1831, p. 27. Type locality: Bengal, India. MNHN, original number 1501, subsequently lost.


*Varanus bibronii* Blyth, 1842, p. 869. Type locality: unknown. Type: lost (Das, pers. comm.).

*Varanus lunatus* Gray, 1845, p. 10. Type locality: India. Holotype: BMNH I.10a(41.950), by monotypy.

*Varanus irrawadicus* Yang & Li, 1987, p. 60. Type locality: Wanding Valley, Yunnan, China. Holotype: KIZ 86001, by original designation.

**Distribution**: southeastern Iran, eastern Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal and extreme southern Yunnan (China).

Varanus boehmei Jacobs, 2003


**Distribution**: Waigeo Island, Papua province, Indonesia.

Varanus bogerti Mertens, 1950


**Distribution**: Kiriwina Island in the Trobriand group, Fergusson and Normanby islands in the D’Entrecasteaux group and Misima Island in the Louisiade Archipelago, all in Milne Bay province, Papua New Guinea.

Varanus brevicauda Boulenger, 1898


**Distribution**: arid regions of Western Australia, southern Northern Territory, northwest South Australia and extreme western Queensland.
Varanus bushi Aplin, Fitch & King, 2006

*Varanus bushi* Aplin, Fitch & King, 2006, p. 24. Type locality: Marandoo, Western Australia.
Holotype: WAM R108999, by original designation.

**Distribution:** Pilbara Uplands, Western Australia.

Varanus caerulivirens Ziegler, Böhme & Philipp, 1999


**Distribution:** Halmahera and Morotai islands, Maluku province, Indonesia.

Varanus caudolineatus Boulenger, 1885

*Varanus caudolineatus* Boulenger, 1885, p. 324. Type locality: Champion Bay, Western Australia. Holotype: BMNH 64.7.22.3, by monotypy.

**Distribution:** Coast and interior of central Western Australia.

Varanus cerambonensis Philipp, Böhme & Ziegler, 1999


**Distribution:** Seram, Ambon, Buru, Obi and Banda Islands, Indonesia.

Varanus cumingi Martin, 1838


**Distribution:** southern Philippines: Mindanao, Leyte, Samar, Bohol and Basilan islands.

Varanus doreanus (Meyer, 1874)

*Monitor kalabeck* Lesson, in Duperey, 1830, p. 52. Type locality: Offack Bay, northern coast of Waigeo Island, Papua, Indonesia. *(nomen dubium)*. No type.


**Distribution:** Papua New Guinea, Indonesia (Papua, Aru, Salawati, Biak, Yapen, Mansinam) and the Iron Range, Cape York, Australia.

Varanus dumerilii (Schlegel, 1839)


**Synonyms:**

*Varanus macrolepis* Blanford, 1881, p. 239. Type locality: Tenasserim, Burma. Holotype: ZSIC 11482, by monotypy.

*Varanus heteropholis* Boulenger, 1892, p. 506. Type locality: Mt. Dulit, upper Baram River, Sarawak, Malaysia. Holotype: BMNH 92.6.3.1, by monotypy.

**Distribution:** Burma, southern Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia (Batu, Sumatra, Bangka, Kalimantan, Riau, Belitung), Sarawak and Sabah in West Malaysia.

Varanus eremius Lucas & Frost, 1895

**Distribution:** central and coastal Western Australia through the deserts of South Australia and Northern Territory to southwestern Queensland.

*Varanus exanthematicus* (Bosc, 1792)


**Synonyms:**
*Varanus ocellatus* Heyden, in Rüppell, 1830, p. 21. Type locality: Kordofan, Sudan. Holotype: SMF 11544, by monotypy.

**Distribution:** from southern Mauritania to Nigeria in West Africa and then east to the Sudan-Ethiopian borderland.

*Varanus finschi* Böhme, Horn & Ziegler, 1994


**Distribution:** New Britain and New Ireland in the Bismarck Archipelago and Huon Peninsula, Papua New Guinea; Kei Islands, Indonesia (doubtful allocation); Cape York, Australia (doubtful).

*Varanus flavescens* (Hardwicke & Gray, 1827)


**Synonyms:**
*Varanus picquotii* Duméril & Bibron, 1836, p. 485. Type locality: Bengal, India. Syntypes: MHNP 8339, MHNP 2181.

*Varanus russelli* Heyden, in Rüppell, 1830, p. 23. Type locality: Bengal, India. Holotype: SMF 11546, by monotypy.

*Monitor exanthematicus indicus* Schlegel, 1844, p. 71. Type locality: Bengal, India. Holotype: RMNH 3158, by monotypy.

**Distribution:** flood plains of Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers, Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

*Varanus flavirufus* Mertens, 1958

*Varanus gouldii flavirufus* Mertens, 1958, p. 250. Type locality: Bat Caves, south of Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia. Holotype: SMF 53271, by original designation.

**Distribution:** sandy deserts of western Queensland and northwestern New South Wales, to the Great Victorian and Great Sandy Deserts, Western Australia; as far north as the Tanami Desert, Northern Territory, and as far west as the coast between Dampier Land and Exmouth Gulf.

*Varanus giganteus* (Gray 1845)


**Distribution:** arid parts of Australia, from western Queensland to the coast of Western Australia.
**Varanus gilleni** Lucas & Frost, 1895
*Varanus gilleni* Lucas & Frost, 1895, p. 266. Type locality: between Glen Edith and Deering Creek, Northern Territory, Australia. Holotype: NMV D11759, by monotypy.
**Distribution:** deserts of South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australia to the northwestern coast.

**Varanus glauerti** Mertens, 1957
**Distribution:** Kimberley region of Western Australia and adjacent Northern Territory. Isolated population in northwestern Arnhem Land and adjacent Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory.

**Varanus glebopalma** Mitchell, 1955
**Distribution:** northeastern Western Australia, northern Northern Territory and northwestern Queensland.

**Varanus gouldii** (Gray, 1838)
**Synonym:**
**Distribution:** southwestern Western Australia (Shark Bay to Cape Naturaliste), east to Nullarbor Plain; northern Australia (Dampier Land, Western Australia, to Barkly Tableland, Northern Territory); western Queensland; eastern and central New South Wales.

**Varanus griseus** (Daudin, 1803)
*Varanus griseus griseus* (Daudin, 1803)
**Synonyms:**
Varanus scincus Merrem, 1820, p. 59. Type locality: Egypt. No type designated,
*Tupinambis arenarius* Geoffroy, 1827, p. 123. Type locality: Egypt. Type: MHNP, not found.
Varanus terrestris Schinz, 1834, p. 94. Type locality: Cairo, Egypt. Type: ZMZ, not found.
Psammosaurus arabicus Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1899, p. 3. Type locality: Arabia. Holotype: ZMB, lost
**Distribution:** deserts of North Africa (Morocco and Mauritania east to Egypt and Sudan); southeastern Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula.

**Varanus griseus caspius** (Eichwald, 1831)
*Psammosaurus caspius* Eichwald, 1831, p. 190. Type locality: Dardsha Peninsula, southeastern coast of Caspian Sea, Turkmenistan. Holotype: EMKSU, not located.
**Distribution:** deserts of central Asia: northern Iran, Afghanistan, southwest Pakistan, Turkmenistan, southern Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.
Varanus griseus koniecznyi Mertens, 1954  
**Distribution:** acacia woodland and desert scrubland of eastern Pakistan and northwestern India.

Varanus indicus (Daudin, 1802)  
**Synonyms:**  
*Varanus guttatus* Merrem, 1820, p. 58. Type locality: Ambon, Maluku, Indonesia. (*nomen dubium*). No type.  
*Monitor douarrha* Lesson, in Duperey, 1830, p. 53. Type locality: Port Praslin, New Ireland, Bismarck Archipelago (*nomen dubium*). No type.  
**Distribution:** Indonesia (Talaud, Ternate, Bacan, Morotai, Halmahera, Obi, Buru, Ambon, Saparua, Haruku, Seram, Nusa Laut, Letri, Tanimbar, Banda, Gorong, Kei, Aru, Gebe, Kawe, Waigeo, Salawati, Papua, Biak, Numfor, Yapen); Papua New Guinea (including Bismarck Archipelago and Bougainville); Solomon Islands (Shortland, Rendova, Ysabel, New Georgia, Russell, Guadalcanal, Nggela, Savo, Malaita, San Cristobal, Agi, Olu Malau, Kolombangara, Giza); Palau (Babeldaob, Oreor, Ngeaur, Ngcheangel); Caroline Islands (Ifalik, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap, Ulithi, Truk); Marianas Islands (Guam, Rota, Saipan); Bonin Islands; Marshall Islands (Eniwetok); Australia (eastern Cape York Peninsula, islands of Torres Strait and coastal Arnhem Land).

Varanus jobiensis Ahl, 1932  
**Synonym:**  
**Distribution:** Indonesia: Salawati, Batanta, Yapen, Papua, Waigeo; western Papua New Guinea.

Varanus juxtindicus Böhme, Philipp & Ziegler, 2002  
**Distribution:** Known only from Rennell Island, southernmost of the Solomons.

Varanus keithhornei (Wells & Wellington, 1985)  
**Synonym:**

**Distribution:** Iron Range and McIlwraith Range, Cape York Peninsula, northern Queensland, Australia.

*Varanus kingorum* Storr, 1980

*Varanus kingorum* Storr, 1980, p. 268. Type locality: 10 km west north west of Timber Creek (15°37’S, 130°23’E), Northern Territory, Australia. Holotype: WAM R60374, by original designation.

**Distribution:** east Kimberley region on the northern border of Western Australia and Northern Territory.

*Varanus komodoensis* Ouwens, 1912


**Distribution:** Komodo, Padar, Rinca and parts of Flores islands, Lesser Sunda region, Indonesia.

*Varanus kordensis* (Meyer, 1874)


**Distribution:** Biak Island, Papua Province, Indonesia (probably also on neighbouring Supiori Island).

*Varanus lirungensis* Koch, Arida, Schmitz, Böhme & Ziegler, 2009


**Distribution:** Talaud Islands, Indonesia.

*Varanus mabitang* Gaulke & Curio, 2001


**Distribution:** northwestern Panay Peninsula and Western Panay Range, Panay Island, Philippines.

*Varanus macraei* Böhme & Jacobs, 2001


**Distribution:** Batanta Island, Papua province, Indonesia.

*Varanus marmoratus* (Wiegmann, 1834)


**Synonyms:**

Varanus salvator philippensis Deraniyagala, 1944, p. 61. Type locality: Luzon, Philippines. Holotype: MNHN 1530, by original designation.

**Distribution:** Philippines: Luzon, Polillo, Ticao, Calamian, Sojon, Mindoro, Culion, Calauit, Balabac, Palawan, Sulu Archipelago (Bongao, Sanga Sanga, Siasi, Jolo, Sibutu, Tawi-Tawi), Semirara Islands (Caluya, Panagatan III, Semirara), Babuyan Islands (Camiguin).

Varanus melinus Böhme & Ziegler, 1997


**Distribution:** Bowokan, Taliabu, Mangole, Lifamatola islands, Indonesia.

Varanus mertensi Glauert, 1951

Varanus mertensi Glauert, 1951, p. 14. Type locality: Moola Bulla Cattle Station, near Halls Creek, East Kimberley, Western Australia. Holotype: WAM R5819, by original designation.

**Synonym:**


**Distribution:** northern Australia, from Broome in Western Australia east to Cape York, Queensland.

Varanus mitchelli Mertens, 1958

Varanus mitchelli Mertens, 1958, p. 256. Type locality: 5 miles west of Oenpelli, Northern Territory, Australia. Holotype: SAMA R3230, by original designation.

**Distribution:** Kimberley region, Western Australia, east to extreme northwestern Queensland.

Varanus nebulosus (Gray, 1851)

Monitor nebulosus Gray, in Griffith, 1851, p. 27. Type locality: Java, Indonesia. Holotype: MNHN 8258, by monotypy.

**Synonym:**


**Distribution:** southern Burma, Thailand, west Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia (Sumatra, Java, Anambas, Riau, western Kalimantan).

Varanus niloticus (Linnaeus, 1766)


**Synonyms:**

Stellio saurus Laurenti, 1768, p. 56. Type locality: unknown. Holotype (iconotype): A. Seba, Locupletissimi rerum naturalium thesauri accurata descriptio et iconibus artiosissimis expressio per universam physics historiam, II, pl. 105.1.

Lacerta capensis Sparrman, 1783, p. 749. Type locality: Hinterbruynjets Cave, Cape province, South Africa. Type: NHRM, lost.


**Distribution:** Senegal east to Somalia, along the Nile in Sudan as far as Qena, Egypt; south through most of the continent to South Africa.

*Varanus nuchalis* (Günther, 1872)


**Distribution:** Philippines: Boracay, Negros, Guimaras, Cebu, Panay, Masbate, Sibuyan, Siquijor, Ticao Islands.

*Varanus olivaceus* Hallowell, 1856


**Synonym:**


**Distribution:** Philippines: southern Luzon, Catanduanes, Polillo Islands.

*Varanus ornatus* (Daudin, 1803)


**Distribution:** western and eastern Guinean forests, Nigerian and Congolian lowland forests of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic.

*Varanus panoptes* Storr, 1980


**Distribution:** Kimberley region of Western Australia across northern Australia to Cape York, south through most of Queensland. Occurs on several islands off the Queensland coast.

*Varanus panoptes horni* Böhme, 1988

*Varanus panoptes horni* Böhme, 1988, p. 90. Type locality: Merauke, Papua, Indonesia. Holotype: ZFMK 19290, by original designation.

**Distribution:** southern New Guinea from near Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, west to the Bomberai Peninsula, Papua, Indonesia. Also some islands in the Torres Strait.

*Varanus panoptes rubidus* Storr, 1980

*Varanus panoptes rubidus* Storr, 1980, p. 276. Type locality: Wilgie Mia (26º6’S, 117º42’E), 60 km north north west of Cue, Western Australia. Holotype: WAM R19132, by original designation.

**Distribution:** from near Broome to Fields Find, east into the Great Sandy and Great Victorian Deserts, Western Australia.
Varanus pilbarensis Storr, 1980

*Varanus pilbarensis* Storr, 1980. p. 278. Type locality: Chichester Range (22°3’S, 118°48’E), Western Australia. Holotype: WAM R39782, by original designation.

**Distribution:** Hamersley and Chichester Ranges, Pilbara region, Western Australia.

Varanus prasinus (Schlegel, 1839)


**Distribution:** Indonesia: Salawati, Papua; Papua New Guinea (except southeast); Australia: islands in the Torres Strait.

Varanus primordius Mertens, 1942

*Varanus acanthurus primordius* Mertens, p. 41. Type locality: northern Australia. Holotype: ZMB 6204, by original designation.

**Distribution:** northern Northern Territory, Australia.

Varanus rainerguentheri Ziegler, Böhme & Schultz, 2007


**Distribution:** reported erroneously as Halmahera, Maluku, Indonesia. Real distribution is unknown.

Varanus reisingeri Eidenmüller & Wicker, 2005


**Distribution:** known only from Misool Island, Raja Ampat group, Papua province, Indonesia.

Varanus rosenbergi Mertens, 1957


**Synonym:**


**Distribution:** disjunct: southwestern tip of Western Australia to near Point Culver; southern Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Sir Joseph Banks Islands and south-eastern part of South Australia; southwestern Victoria; mountains and coastal heaths of New South Wales.

Varanus rudicollis Gray, 1845

*Varanus rudicollis* Gray, 1845, p. 10. Type locality: unknown. Holotype: BMNH 1842.2.15.239, by monotypy.

**Synonym:**


**Distribution:** peninsular Burma and Thailand north to Tak province; Malaysia (east and west-Sarawak and Sabah); Indonesia (Riau, Sumatra, Bangka, Kalimantan).
**Varanus salvadorii** (Peters & Doria, 1876)


**Distribution:** lowlands of New Guinea, from the Kemp Welch River (southeast of Port Moresby) west to Vogelkop and Salawati Island (Papua, Indonesia); and then along the north coast to the Baweni Mountains, Papua New Guinea.

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**Varanus salvator** (Laurenti, 1768)

**Varanus salvator salvator** (Laurenti, 1768)

*Stellio salvator* Laurenti, 1768, p. 56. Type locality: Sri Lanka. Iconotype: Fig. 2, Tab. 86, Tome II of Seba’s “Thesaurus”. Neotype: ZFMK 22092, by designation of Koch et al. (2007).

**Synonym:**


**Distribution:** Sri Lanka.

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**Varanus salvator andamanensis** Deraniyagala, 1944

*Varanus salvator andamanensis* Deraniyagala, 1944, p. 60. Type locality: Port Blair, South Andaman Island, Andaman Islands, India. Holotype: ZSIC 2176, by original designation.

**Distribution:** Andaman Islands, India.

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**Varanus salvator bivittatus** (Kuhl, 1820)

*Tupinambis bivittatus* Kuhl, 1820, p. 125. Type locality: Java, Indonesia. Holotype: iconotype: Plate 30, fig. 2 in Seba’s “Thesaurus”, Tome II.

**Synonyms:**

*Monitor nigricans* Cuvier, 1829. p. 27. Type locality: Java. Syntypes: MNHN 8275 and 1195.

*Monitor bivittatus javanica* Schlegel, 1844, p. 76. Type locality: Java. Holotype: iconotype: Plate 30, fig. 2 in Seba’s “Thesaurus”, Tome II.

*Varanus crocodilinus* Owen, 1845, p. 265. Type locality: Java. Holotype: RCSOM/A 408.3, by monotypy.

**Distribution:** Indonesia: Java, Bawean, Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, Komodo, Flores, Seribu, Karemanjawa, Kangean, Alor, Sumba, Bonerate, Wetar Islands.

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**Varanus salvator celebensis** (Schlegel, 1844)


**Distribution:** Indonesia: Sulawesi, Sangihe Archipelago.

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**Varanus salvator komaini** Nutphand, 1987


**Distribution:** southwestern Thailand and northwestern Malaysia.

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**Varanus salvator macromaculatus** Deraniyagala, 1944


**Synonym:**

**Distribution:** northeastern India (West Bengal, Orissa, Assam), Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, southern China (Yunnan, Kwantung, Kwangshi, Hong Kong, Hainan), Malaysia (incl. Sarawak and Sabah), Indonesia (Sumatra, Nias, Enggano, Bangka, Billiton, Kalimantan, Weh, Simeulue, Metawai, Anambas, Ponaitan, Tingil, Krakatau) and the Nicobar Islands. Introduced to Taiwan.

Varanus scalaris Mertens, 1941


**Synonyms:**


**Distribution:** nominate form is limited to Dampier Land, Western Australia; other forms range across northern Australia to Queensland.

Varanus semiremex Peters, 1869

*Varanus timorensis semiremex* Peters, 1869, p. 65. Type locality: Cape York, Queensland, Australia. Holotype: ZMB 5776, by monotypy.

**Synonym:**


**Distribution:** coastal Queensland. Northern form found on east coast of Cape York; southern form from southern Cape York to Gladstone and Rockhampton districts, Queensland. Also on west coast of Cape York: Albatross Bay to Mitchell River.

Varanus similis Mertens, 1958

*Varanus timorensis similis* Mertens, 1958, p. 239. Type locality: Groote Eylandt, Northern Territory, Australia. Holotype: AM R10207, by original designation.

**Distribution:** nominate form is limited to Groote Eylandt, Arnhem Land and Kakadu, Northern Territory, Australia. Another form is found in southern New Guinea: from southeastern Papua, Indonesia, to Western Province, Papua New Guinea.

Varanus spenceri Lucas & Frost, 1903

*Varanus spenceri* Lucas & Frost, 1903, p. 145. Type locality: Tablelands, 50 miles northeast of Tennant’s Creek, Northern Territory. Holotype: NMV D12350, by original designation.

**Synonym:**

*Varanus ingrami* Boulenger 1906, p. 440. Type locality: Alexandria, Northern Territory, Australia. Holotype: BMNH 1946.8.31.6, by original designation.

**Distribution:** inland northwestern Queensland and eastern Northern Territory centred on Barkly Tableland.
Varanus spinulosus Mertens, 1941

Varanus indicus spinulosus Mertens, 1941, p. 269. Type locality: San Jorge Island, Solomon Islands. Holotype: NHMW 3709, by original designation.

Distribution: San Jorge and adjacent Isabel Islands; islets west of Morovo Lagoon, Solomon Islands. Southern Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea.

Varanus storri Mertens, 1966


Distribution: vicinity Townsville, Queensland, to near Borrolloola, Northern Territory, Australia.

Varanus storri ocreatus Storr, 1980


Distribution: Kimberley region, Western Australia and adjacent Northern Territory.

Varanus telenesetes Sprackland, 1991


Distribution: presently unknown; not Rossel; possibly another island in the Archipelago (Kraus, pers. comm.).

Varanus timorensis (Gray, 1831)


Varanus togianus (Peters, 1872)


Distribution: Indonesia: Togian Islands; also Selayar Island and southwest peninsula of Sulawesi. The melanistic form found in the Sula Islands may also be this species.

Varanus tristis (Schlegel, 1838)

Varanus tristis tristis (Schlegel, 1838)

Monitor tristis Schlegel, 1838, p. 73. Type locality: Swan River, Western Australia. Holotype: RMNH 3858, by monotypy.

Synonym:
Odatria punctata Gray, 1838, p. 394. Type locality: Shark Bay, Western Australia. Holotype: BMNH i.32, by monotypy.

Distribution: most of Western Australia, southwestern Northern Territory and northwestern South Australia.
**Varanus tristis orientalis** Fry, 1913

*Varanus punctatus orientalis* Fry, 1913, p. 18. Type locality: Eidsvold, upper Burnett River, Queensland, Australia. Holotype: AM R5313, by original designation.

**Synonym:**

**Distribution:** northern Western Australia, northern and eastern Northern Territory, most of Queensland, northwestern New South Wales, northeastern South Australia.

**Varanus varius** (White & Shaw, 1790)


**Synonyms:**
*Tupinambis variegatus* Daudin, 1802, p. 76. Type locality: Port Jackson, New South Wales, Australia. Syntype: MNHP 8287.


*Varanus mustelinus* De Borre, 1870, p. 124. Type locality: unknown. Holotype: IRSNB 9422, by monotypy.

**Distribution:** northeastern coast of Queensland south through much of New South Wales to Victoria and South Australia.

**Varanus yemenensis** Böhme, Joger & Schätti, 1989


**Distribution:** southwestern Arabian Peninsula: Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

**Varanus yuwonoi** Harvey & Barker, 1998


**Distribution:** known only from northwestern Halmahera, Maluku, Indonesia.

**Varanus zugorum** Böhme & Ziegler, 2005


**Distribution:** northern Halmahera Island, Maluku, Indonesia.

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