

# Checklist of the living monitor lizards of the world (family Varanidae)

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Böhme, W. Checklist of the living monitor lizards of the world (family Varanidae).

Zool. Verh. Leiden 341, 25.iv.2003: 4-43.— ISSN 0024-1652/ISBN 90-73239-86-9.

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Keywords: checklist; *Varanus*; recent taxa; geographical distribution.

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## Introduction

The Varanidae as a group of mostly big-growing lizards and comprising the largest living lizards of the world, should be expected to be more or less well known. However, despite the remarkable body size of many species, and despite their popularity and their meaning in the international reptile leather trade, not even the number of species existing on the earth is yet known. New species are continuously described, mainly from two sources:

1. more commonly by re-evaluating and re-estimating the taxonomic rank of formerly described subspecies, due to new methodological approaches;
2. less commonly by the discovery of new species from remote areas not seen before by herpetologists.

In his classical monograph of the family Varanidae, Robert Mertens (1942) listed 24 different species. Of these, he believed 14 to be monotypic, and 10 to be polytypic (with a total of 31 subspecies) which made up 45 "species-group names" (sensu

ICZN) considered to be valid. In his subsequent checklist in the famous series "Das Tierreich" (1963) he listed 30 species, 18 of them being monotypic and 12 polytypic, with a total of 57 species group names regarded as valid. The next review of all varanid taxa known at that time was given by Ziegler & Böhme (1997) in the course of their taxonomic revision of the family Varanidae which was mainly based on genital-morphological characters. They distinguished between 47 species: 37 monotypic and 10 polytypic ones, and a total of 67 species-group names regarded valid. On the basis of this review, I have followed a request of the publisher of a facsimile reprint of Mertens' (1942) monograph to write an addendum with a taxonomic update of Mertens' systematic concept (Böhme, 1997). Since this last summary and update of varanid taxonomy, even more new and spectacular discoveries of big-growing monitor lizard species have been made. Also, taxonomic rearrangements of former nominal subspecies to full species rank led again to an increase in the number of varanid species currently known, but also to a further reduction of the percentage of polytypic species as compared with monotypic ones. This trend is still continuing.

In the present list, I basically follow the scheme which has been used in the famous series "Das Tierreich: Liste der rezenten Amphibien und Reptilien". The arrangement of taxa is alphabetical. Within the only genus of the Varanidae currently accepted, i.e. *Varanus*, the subgenera are arranged alphabetically with the exception of the nominotypic subgenus *Varanus*, which is listed first. Within subgenera, species are again listed alphabetically, if they do not form part of closely related species bundles within a subgenus. Such a bundle of species is called here a species group, and it follows a single species which does not belong to such a group, also according to the alphabet. Within a species group, species are again arranged alphabetically with the exception of the "nominotypic" species that gave the group its name. Finally, within species, be they more isolated or part of a closely related species group, subspecies are again alphabetically arranged, also beginning with the nominotypic one.

The alphabet alone is an insufficient criterion for arranging groups of organisms that are hierarchically more or less related to each other. Therefore, as a compromise, the taxa under consideration are bundled according to their systematic relationships within a species, within a species group, and finally within a subgenus. So groups of related taxa can be more easily recognized than in the previous purely alphabetical checklist by Mertens (op. cit.).

However, the infrafamilial phylogenetic relationships of the Varanidae are not yet fully resolved. The subgeneric classification of Mertens (1942, 1963) was merely phenetic, being largely based on adaptive external morphological characters. Subsequent trials to resolve the phylogeny within *Varanus* included approaches based on genital morphology, lung anatomy, karyotypes and molecular genetics (MC'F, DNA) (King & King, 1975; Branch, 1982; Böhme, 1988; Becker et al., 1989; King et al., 1991, 1999; Baverstock et al., 1993; Ziegler & Böhme, 1997). The most recent approach by Ast (2001) using mtDNA was partly in agreement and partly in disagreement with former concepts. It conflicted with former evidence for instance by the order of branching between the different clades within *Varanus* (here considered to be subgenera). On the other hand, it further corroborated the close sister-group relationships of several morphologically very distant representatives which had been placed in different subgenera by Mertens, 1942, 1963), e.g. *V. niloticus* and *V. exanthematicus*, or *V. indicus* and *V.*

*prasinus*, or *V. semiremex* and *V. mitchelli*. Therefore, the subgeneric concept used in this list (see Böhme, 1997; Ziegler & Böhme, 1997), seems, apart from disputable details, still to largely reflect modern views of varanid phylogeny.

The synonymy lists that follow each subgenus, species and subspecies start with the respective first, original citation and source of the name concerned and of its type locality. The following, chronologically arranged "synonyms" comprise 2 different types of names: (1) true synonyms, i.e. different younger names with their own, appertaining type localities, and (2) so-called chresonyms, which are simply earlier author's names as they were used later by subsequent authors (or by the same author in a later work). Omitted are all names that are either officially rejected by the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature, or nude and dubious names (*Nomina illegitima*, *Nomina dubia*, and *Nomina nuda*, according to the new Code, Intern. Comm. Zool. Nomencl. 2000. Emendations, erroneous and substitute names are also not included.

If the generic (or subgeneric) assignment of an old name has been combined with a different (sub)genus name later (which means that the original author's name is in parentheses), the citation of the first source which gives the currently valid combination is obligatorily given. Pure chresonyms, also if they stand unchanged through decades and reflect a rather stable taxonomy, are nevertheless repeatedly cited according to some standard references. These are the monumental monograph of the family Varanidae by Robert Mertens (1942), the "Tierreich" checklist by the same author (Mertens, 1963) and the taxonomic update of Mertens work by myself (Böhme, 1997).

The problem of judging the taxonomic rank of a species-group taxon as a full species or a subspecies is to some extent dependent on the theoretical species concept (e.g. biological, evolutionary, phylogenetic) adopted. In this list, I do not adopt the view that each isolated population must necessarily represent a distinct independent species. However, I regard sympatric coexistence of two taxa without interbreeding in the wild as a proof of their specific distinctness.

The present list was developed at the request of the CITES (Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora) Nomenclature Committee, under a contract with the CITES Secretariat in Geneva. Species of the genus *Varanus* not only are traded as skins, a type of commerce that is mainly centered on all African species and on *Varanus salvator* from SE Asia, but they are also frequently traded for the terrarium trade. Especially this last type of trade gave rise to the discovery of new species and new colour varieties which may or may not represent new taxa. This caused a bewildering increase in names and combinations which made communication about these lizards in the CITES domain rather difficult. The present checklist has been adopted as the Standard Reference for *Varanus* by the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to CITES in November 2002 in Santiago de Chile. This means that the taxa listed in the present list will be incorporated into the WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge) database for the Checklist of CITES species. A new version of this checklist is expected to be published in 2003 as well.

Thanks to financial support of the CITES Secretariat the checklist could be printed in the present format with a number of colour pictures of species.



Fig. 1. *Varanus giganteus* (Gray, 1845): Ayers Rock, Australia, photo Y. de Soye.



Fig. 2. *Varanus gouldii flavirufus* Mertens, 1958: 40-50 km SE of Alice Springs, Northern Territory Australia, photo Y. de Soye.

### List of taxa

#### Genus *Varanus* Merrem, 1820

1820 *Varanus* Merrem, Tent. Syst. Amphib.: 58. - Type species (Gray, 1827: 55): *Varanus varius* (Shaw, 1790).

#### Subgenus *Varanus* Merrem, 1820

1843 *Pantherosaurus* Fitzinger, Syst. Rept., 1: 19. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus gouldii* (Gray, 1838).

1927 *Placovaranus* Féjérváry, Termeszettudományi Közlöny, 59: 284. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus komodoensis* Ouwens, 1912.

#### *Varanus giganteus* (Gray, 1845) (fig. 1)

1845 *Hydrosaurus giganteus* Gray, Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus.: 13 - Type locality: North coast of Australia.

1885 *Varanus giganteus* - Boulenger, Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus. 2: 320.

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) giganteus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 276.

1963 *Varanus giganteus* (Subgenus *Varanus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 9.

1997 *Varanus giganteus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: vii.

Distribution.— Arid interior of Australia, from western Queensland through central Australia to the coast of West Australia.

#### Species group *Varanus gouldii*

#### *Varanus gouldii* (Gray, 1838)

1838 *Hydrosaurus gouldii* Gray, Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. 1: 394. - Type locality: "Australia", restricted by Opinion 1948 of the International Commission of Zool. Nomenclature (2000), due to the designation of a neotype, to Karakatta, Perth, Western Australia.

1851 *Varanus gouldii* - C. & A. Duméril, Cat. méth. Coll. Rept. Mus. Paris: 52.

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) gouldii* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 281.

1963 *Varanus gouldii* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 9.

2000 *Varanus gouldii* - Int. Comm. Zool. Nomencl., Bull. zool. Nomencl. 57 (1): 64.

Distribution.— Throughout most parts of Australia, except the extreme south-east and some very wet parts of the east coast.

Remark.— The name *Varanus gouldii* for some time was assigned to a biological species other than that commonly understood before, because its lectotype fitted with this other species (*V. panoptes* Storr, 1980, see below). However, the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (2000: Opinion 1948) accepted an application to set aside the lectotype and to replace it by a neotype fitting with what was understood to be *V. gouldii* before.

*Varanus gouldii gouldii* (Gray, 1838)

1838 *Hydrosaurus gouldii* Gray, Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. 1: 394. - Type locality: "Australia", restricted by Opinion 1948 of the International Commission of Zool. Nomenclature (2000), due to the designation of a neotype, to Karakatta, Perth, Western Australia.

2000 *Varanus gouldii gouldii* - Int. Comm. zool. Nomencl., Bull. zool. Nomencl. 57 (1): 64.

Distribution.— Range of the species except the deserts of Central Australia.

*Varanus gouldii flavirufus* Mertens, 1958  
(fig. 2)

1958 *Varanus (Varanus) gouldii flavirufus* Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 39: 250. - Type locality: Bat Caves near Alice Springs, Northern Territory.

1963 *Varanus gouldii flavirufus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 10.

1997 *Varanus flavirufus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: vii.

Distribution.— Central Australia in the area of the red soils; westwards to the Canning Stock Route (Western Australia).

Remark.— The specific status of the taxon *flavirufus* Mertens was not simply used as a result of a change in categorial rank; this name was used for the species formerly and again today called *V. gouldii* because, based on the identity of the lectotype, this name referred to another species (currently *V. panoptes*, see below: cf. Böhme, 1991). However, the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature decided to set aside the lectotypic specimen and to replace it by a neotype for *gouldii* which fits again the former common use (Int. Comm. Zool. Nomencl., 2000).

*Varanus rosenbergi* Mertens, 1957

1957 *Varanus gouldii rosenbergi* Mertens, Zool. Anz. 159: 18. - Type locality: Monigub Pass, Stirling Range, southwestern Australia.

1963 *Varanus gouldii rosenbergi* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 10.

1980 *Varanus rosenbergi* - Storr, Rec. West. Aust. Mus. 8 (2): 263, 280.

1997 *Varanus rosenbergi* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: viii.

Distribution.— Southernmost Australia including Kangaroo Island in the south-east.

*Varanus panoptes* Storr, 1980

1980 *Varanus panoptes* Storr, Rec. West. Aust. Mus. 8 (2): 273. - Type locality: Lake Argyle, Western Australia.

1991 *Varanus gouldii* - Böhme, Mertensiella 2: 40.

2000 *Varanus panoptes* - Int. Comm. Zool. Nomencl., Bull. zool. Nomencl. 57 (1): 64.

Distribution.— Kimberley and arid western regions of Western Australia and Northern Territory.



*Varanus panoptes panoptes* Storr, 1980

1980 *Varanus panoptes* Storr, Rec. West. Aust. Mus. 8 (2): 273. - Type locality: Lake Argyle, Western Australia.

2000 *Varanus panoptes panoptes* - Int. Comm. Zool. Nomencl., Bull. zool. Nomencl. 57 (1): 64

Distribution.— Kimberley, Western Australia, and entire northern part of the Northern Territory, Australia (and possibly Torres Strait Island if not *V. p. horni*).

*Varanus panoptes horni* Böhme, 1988  
(fig. 3)

1988 *Varanus panoptes horni* Böhme, Salamandra 24 (2/3): 90. - Type locality: Merauke, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

1997 *Varanus gouldii horni* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: vii.

Distribution.— Southern part of New Guinea; Torres Strait Islands (if these are not *V. p. panoptes*).

*Varanus panoptes rubidus* Storr, 1980

1980 *Varanus panoptes rubidus* Storr, 1980, Rec. Aust. Mus. 8 (2): 276. - Type locality: Wilgie Mia, NNW of Cue, West Australia.

1997 *Varanus gouldii rubidus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: viii.

Distribution.— Arid western plateau of Western Australia, from the Pilbara south to Fields Find and Mt. Linden; also on Dolphin Island, Dampier archipelago.

*Varanus komodoensis* Ouwens, 1912

1912 *Varanus komodoensis* Ouwens, Bull. Jardin Buitenzorg, (2) 6: 1. - Type locality: Komodo Island, Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia.

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) komodoensis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 100, 466: 278.

1963 *Varanus komodoensis* (Subgenus *Varanus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 13.

1997 *Varanus komodoensis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: viii.

Distribution.— Islands of Komodo, Rintja, Padar and western part of Flores, Lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia.

*Varanus mertensi* Glauert, 1951

1951 *Varanus mertensi* Glauert, West. Aust. Natur. 3: 14. - Type locality: Moola Bulla Cattle Station near Halls Creek, East Kimberley, Western Australia.

1956 *Varanus bulliwallah* Worrell, Aust. Zool. 12: 201. - Type locality: Near Belyando, Bulliwallah Station, Queensland, Australia.

1963 *Varanus mertensi* (Subgenus *Varanus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 13.

1997 *Varanus mertensi* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: viii.

Distribution.— Northern parts of Western Australia and northern Queensland, Australia.



Fig. 3. *Varanus panoptes horni* Böhme, 1988: vicinity of Merauke, southern Irian Jaya, Indonesia, photo M. Auliya.



Fig. 4. *Varanus varius* (Shaw, 1790): Coolooloa National Park, Queensland, Australia, photo Y. de Soye.



Fig. 5. *Varanus dumerilii* (Schlegel, 1839): locality unknown, photo T. Ziegler.



Fig. 6. *Varanus rudicollis* (Gray, 1845): locality unknown, photo T. Ziegler.

*Varanus spenceri* Lucas & Frost, 1903

- 1903 *Varanus spenceri* Lucas & Frost, Proc. Soc. Victoria, Melbourne, (n.S.) 15: 145. - Type locality: Tableland, 50 miles northeast of Tennant Creek, Central Australia.  
 1906 *Varanus ingrami* Boulenger, Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. (7) 18: 440. - Type locality: Alexandria, Northern Territory, Australia  
 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) spenceri* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 285.  
 1963 *Varanus spenceri* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 18.  
 1997 *Varanus spenceri* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: viii.

Distribution.— Black-soil plains of north-western Queensland across the Barkly Tableland to eastern Northern Territory, Australia.

*Varanus varius* (Shaw, 1790)  
(fig. 4)

- 1790 *Lacerta varia* Shaw, in White: J. Voyage New South Wales, App.: 42. - Type locality: New South Wales.  
 1802 *Tupinambis variegatus* Daudin, Hist. nat. Rept., 3: 76. - Type locality: Port Jackson (near Sydney, New South Wales, Australia).  
 1820 *Varanus varius* - Merrem, Tent. Syst. Amphib.: 58.  
 1836 *Varanus bellii* Duméril & Bibron, Erpétol. gén. 3: 493. - Type locality: Australia.  
 1870 *Varanus (Hydrosaurus) mustelinus* de Borre, Bull. Acad. Belg. (2) 29: 124. - Type locality: "Cote de Guinée".  
 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) varius* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 157; 466: 273.  
 1963 *Varanus varius* (Subgenus *Varanus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 20.  
 1997 *Varanus varius* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: viii.

Distribution.— Eastern and southeastern Australia, from southernmost South Australia to Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, Australia.

Subgenus *Empagusia* Gray, 1838

- 1838 *Empagusia* Gray, Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. 1: 393. - Type species (M.A. Smith, 1935: 398): *Varanus flavescens* (Hardwicke & Gray, 1827).  
 1843 *Psammoscopus* Fitzinger, Syst. Rept., 1: 20. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus flavescens* (Hardwicke & Gray, 1827).  
 1942 *Indovaranus* Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 462: 16; 466: 240. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus bengalensis* (Daudin, 1802).  
 1942 *Dendrovaranus* Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 462: 16; 466: 241. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus rudicollis* (Gray, 1845).  
 1942 *Tectovaranus* Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 462: 16; 466: 242. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus dumerilii* (Schlegel, 1837).

Remark.— The Mertensian subgenera considered here to be synonymous with *Empagusia* are certainly forming a common (Böhme, 1988; Becker et al., 1989), though rather inhomogeneous (Ziegler & Böhme, 1997) clade. If *Empagusia*, along with other current subgenera of *Varanus*, might be treated as full genus in future, (some of) the Mertensian subgenera could perhaps be reinstated again as such.

Species group *Varanus bengalensis**Varanus bengalensis* (Daudin, 1802)

- 1802 *Tupinambis bengalensis* Daudin, Hist. nat. Rept. 3: 36. - Type locality: "Surinam" (in error).  
 1802 *Tupinambis cepedianus* Daudin, Hist. nat. Rept. 3: 43. - Type locality: unknown.  
 1802 *Lacerta argus* Daudin (in part), Hist. nat. Rept. 3: 117. - Type locality: "Surinam".  
 1820 *Varanus punctatus* Merrem, Tent. syst. Amphib.: 59. - Type locality: Bengal.  
 1820 *Varanus taraguira* Merrem (in part), Tent. Syst. Amphib.: 59. - Type locality: "In America meridionali".  
 1829 *Monitor gemmatus* Guérin-Méneville, Iconogr. Règne Anim., Rept. 1: pl. 3. - 1838 Rept. 3: 7, 24. - Type locality: "Indes Orientales".  
 1831 *Monitor heraldicus* Gray in Griffith, Anim. Kingd. 9 Synops.: 27. - Type locality: Bengal.  
 1836 *Varanus bengalensis* - Duméril & Bibron, Erpétol. gén. 3: 480.  
 1839 *Monitor inornatus* Schlegel, Abb. Amphib.: 72. - Type locality: "Neu Holland".  
 1842 *Varanus bibronii* Blyth, J. asiat. Soc. Bengal 11: 869. - Type locality: unknown.  
 1845 *Varanus lunatus* Gray, Cat. liz. Brit. Mus.: 10. - Type locality: India.  
 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) bengalensis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges.: 465: 184; 466: 334.  
 1963 *Varanus bengalensis* (Subgenus *Indovaranus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 5.  
 1987 *Varanus irrawadicus* Yang & Li, Chinese Herpetol. Res. 1: 60. - Type locality: Wanding Valley, Yunnan Prov., southern China.  
 1996 *Varanus bengalensis irrawadicus* - De Lisle, Nat. Hist. Monit. Liz.: 119.  
 1997 *Varanus bengalensis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: ix.

Distribution.— From SE Iran and Afghanistan through Pakistan and India to Assam and Myanmar (southwards to the border area of Thailand (Phuket Island); northwards to southern China (Yunnan), Nepal and Darjeeling.

*Varanus nebulosus* (Gray, 1831)

- 1831 *Monitor nebulosus* Gray in Griffith, Anim. Kingd. 9 Synops.: 27. - Type locality: Java, Indonesia.  
 1836 *Varanus nebulosus* - Duméril & Bibron, Erpétol. gén. 3: 483.  
 1942 *Varanus (Indovaranus) bengalensis nebulosus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 184; 466: 332.  
 1963 *Varanus bengalensis nebulosus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 5.  
 1997 *Varanus bengalensis nebulosus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: ix.

Distribution.— Southern Myanmar, Thailand, southern Vietnam, Malayan peninsula and Java, Indonesia.

Remark.— Böhme & Ziegler (1997) discussed the taxonomic status of *nebulosus* and *bengalensis* in view of sympatric overlap of their distribution ranges in northern Thailand and southern Myanmar and suggested (semi-)specific rank for both.

*Varanus dumerilii* (Schlegel, 1839)  
(fig. 5)

- 1839 *Monitor dumerilii* Schlegel, Abb. Amphib.: 78. - Type locality: Banjarmasin, southeastern Borneo, Indonesia.  
 1858 *Varanus dumerili* - Bleeker, Tijdschr. Nederl. Ind. 16: 188.  
 1881 *Varanus macrolepis* Blanford, J. asiat. Soc. Bengal 50 (2): 239. - Type locality: Tenasserim, most likely environs of Tavoy.



Fig. 7. *Varanus caerulivirens* Ziegler, Böhme & Philipp, 1999: Halmageira, Indonesia, photo K. Philipp.



Fig. 8. *Varanus cerambonensis* Philipp, Böhme & Ziegler, 1999: Liang, Ambon, Moluccas, Indonesia, photo K. Philipp.

- 1892 *Varanus heteropholis* Boulenger, Proc. zool. Soc. London 1892: 506. - Type locality: Mt. Dulit, upper Baram River, Sarawak, Malaysia (syn. fide Sprackland, 1993).  
 1942 *Varanus (Tectovaranus) dumerilii dumerilii* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 197; 466: 364.  
 1942 *Varanus (Tectovaranus) dumerilii heteropholis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 364.  
 1963 *Varanus dumerilii dumerilii* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 6.  
 1963 *Varanus dumerilii heteropholis* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 9: 6.  
 1997 *Varanus (Empagusia) dumerilii* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.  
 1997 *Varanus dumerilii* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: x.

Distribution.— Southern Myanmar (including Mergui archipelago), Thailand, and peninsular Malacca with Borneo and Sumatra plus many smaller neighbouring islands including Natu, Banangka and Billitong.

*Varanus flavescens* (Hardwicke & Gray, 1827)

- 1827 *Monitor flavescens* Hardwicke & Gray, Zool. J. 3: 226. - Type locality: "India".  
 1830 *Varanus russelii* Heyden in Rüppell, Atlas Reise nördl. Afrika, Rept.: 23. - Type locality: Bengal.  
 1836 *Varanus picquotii* Duméril & Bibron, Erpétol. gén., 3: 485. - Type locality: Bengal.  
 1844 *Monitor exanthematicus indicus* Schlegel, (not *Tupinambis indicus* Daudin, 1802 = *Varanus indicus*), Abb. Amphib.: x. - Type locality: Bengal.  
 1847 *Varanus flavescens* - Cantor, J. asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 634.  
 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) flavescens* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 187; 466: 347.  
 1963 *Varanus flavescens* (Subgenus *Empagusia*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 6.  
 1997 *Varanus flavescens* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: x.

Distribution.— From Sind, Pakistan, to Bangladesh.

*Varanus rudicollis* (Gray, 1845)  
(fig. 6)

- 1845 *Uaranus rudicollis* Gray, Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus.: 10. - Type locality: "Philippines".  
 1885 *Varanus rudicollis* - Boulenger, Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus. 2: 313.  
 1932 *Varanus scutigerulus* Barbour, Proc. New Engl. zool. Club 13: 1. - Type locality: Kampoing Ulu, Malam River, Sarawak, Malaysia.  
 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator scutigerulus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 259.  
 1942 *Varanus (Dendrovaranus) rudicollis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465:195; 466: 360.  
 1962 *Varanus swarti* Mangili, Giard. zool. Roma, 4: 30 (syn. fide Mertens, 1964).  
 1963 *Varanus rudicollis* (Subgenus *Dendrovaranus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 15.  
 1997 *Varanus (Empagusia) rudicollis* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.  
 1997 *Varanus rudicollis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: x.

Distribution.— Southern Myanmar and Malay peninsula, Rhio archipelago, Sumatra, Banka and Borneo; occurrence in the Philippines doubtful.

Subgenus *Euprepiosaurus* Fitzinger, 1843

- 1843 *Euprepiosaurus* Fitzinger, Syst. rept. 1: 19. - Type species: *Varanus indicus* (Daudin, 1802).



Fig. 9. *Varanus melinus* Böhme & Ziegler, 1997: Moluccas, Indonesia, photo K. Philipp.



Fig. 10. *Varanus macraei* Böhme & Jacobs, 2001: Batanta Island, Indonesia, photo H.J. Jacobs.





Fig. 11. *Varanus storri ocreatus* Storr, 1980: near Hall's Creek, Western Australia, Australia, photo B. Eidenmüller.



Fig. 12. *Varanus brevicauda* Boulenger, 1898: near Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia, photo B. Eidenmüller.

Species group *Varanus indicus**Varanus indicus* (Daudin, 1802)

- 1802 *Tupinambis indicus* Daudin, Hist. nat. Rept 3: 46. - Type locality: "Amboine" = Ambon, Moluccas, Indonesia.
- 1820 *Varanus guttatus* Merrem, Tent. Syst. Amphib.: 58. - Type locality: "Bengal", to be corrected into "Amboine" according to Mertens, 1963).
- 1830 *Monitor douarrha* Lesson in Duperey, Voyage Coquille, Zool. 2 (1): 53. - Type locality: Praslin harbour, New Mecklenburg, Bismarck Archipelago (Nomen dubium according to Böhme et al., 1994).
- 1830 *Monitor kalabeck* Lesson in Duperey, Voyage Coquille, Zool. 2 (1): 52. - Type locality: Offack (= Fofak) Bay, northern coast of Waigeu Island, Irian Jaya, Indonesia (Nomen dubium according to Böhme et al., 1994).
- 1831 *Monitor chlorostigma* Gray in Griffith, Anim. Kingd., 9 Synops.: 26. - Type locality: Rawack Island, north of Waigeu Island, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.
- 1926 *Varanus indicus rouxi* Mertens, Senckenbergiana 8: 276. - Type locality: Durdjela, Wammer, Aru Islands.
- 1929 *Varanus tsukamotoi* Kishida, Lansania 1: 13. - Type locality: Saipan, Caroline Islands.
- 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) indicus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 260.
- 1942 *Varanus indicus indicus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 154; 466: 263.
- 1942 *Varanus indicus kalabeck* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 462: 270.
- 1963 *Varanus indicus indicus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 12.
- 1963 *Varanus indicus kalabeck* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 12.
- 1988 *Varanus (Euprepiosaurus) indicus* - Böhme, Bonn. zool. Monogr., 27: 139.
- 1997 *Varanus indicus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xi.

Distribution.— Eastern part of the Indo-Australian archipelago (westwards to Sulawesi, Talaud and Timor); Moluccan islands Morotau, Ternate, Halmahera, Obi, Buru, Ambon, Haruku and Seram; New Guinea with its offshore islands Salawati, Waigeu, Biak, Japen and Hermit; Bismarck archipelago islands New Britain, New Ireland and Duke of York; Torres Street Islands, and northernmost Queensland, Australia; Solomon Islands Bougainville, Guadalcanal, Ysabel, eastwards to the Carolines, Marianes and Marshall Islands, northwards to Bonin island (= Ogaswara gunto), Japan.

*Varanus caerulivirens* Ziegler, Böhme & Philipp, 1999  
(fig. 7)

- 1999 *Varanus caerulivirens* Ziegler, Böhme & Philipp, Herpetozoa 12 (1/2): 46. - Type locality: Halmahera, Moluccas, Indonesia.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

*Varanus cerambonensis* Philipp, Böhme & Ziegler, 1999  
(fig. 8)

- 1999 *Varanus cerambonensis* Philipp, Böhme & Ziegler, Spixiana 22 (3): 281. - Type locality: Laimu, south coast of Seram (= Ceram), Moluccas, Indonesia.

Distribution.— Moluccan islands Seram, Ambon, Buru, Obi and Banda Islands.

*Varanus doreanus* (A.B. Meyer, 1874)

- 1874 *Monitor doreanus* A.B. Meyer, Mber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, 1874: 130. - Type locality: Doreh, Berou peninsula, northwestern New Guinea.
- 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) indicus indicus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 263.
- 1963 *Varanus indicus indicus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 12.
- 1994 *Varanus doreanus* - Böhme, Horn & Ziegler, Salamandra 30 (2): 132.
- 1994 *Varanus doreanus doreanus* - Böhme, Horn & Ziegler, Salamandra 30 (2): 137.
- 1997 *Varanus doreanus doreanus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1842-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xi.

Distribution.— New Guinea with its offshore islands Salawati and Biak; Wammer, Aru Islands; and northern Queensland, Australia.

*Varanus finschi* Böhme, Horn & Ziegler, 1994

- 1994 *Varanus doreanus finschi* Böhme, Horn & Ziegler, Salamandra 30 (2): 137. - Type locality: Blanche Bay, New Britain, Bismarck archipelago.
- 1997 *Varanus doreanus finschi* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xi.
- 1999 *Varanus finschi* - Ziegler, Philipp & Böhme, Zool. Abh. Dresden, 50 (17): 267.

Distribution.— Bismarck archipelago islands New Britain, New Ireland and opposite part of the New Guinean coast; northern Queensland, Australia.

*Varanus jobiensis* Ahl, 1932

- 1932 *Varanus indicus jobiensis* Ahl, Mitt. zool. Mus. Berlin, 17: 892. - Type locality: Island Jobi (= Japen), Irian Jaya, Indonesia.
- 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) indicus indicus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 263.
- 1951 *Varanus karlschmidti* (Subgenus *Varanus*) Mertens, Fieldiana 31: 467. - Type locality: Marienberg, Sepik River, Papua New Guinea (Syn. according to Böhme 1991: 46).
- 1991 *Varanus jobiensis* - Böhme, Mertensiella 2: 46.
- 1997 *Varanus (Euprepiosaurus) jobiensis* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.
- 1997 *Varanus jobiensis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xi.

Distribution.— Widespread over most parts of New Guinea, also on the offshore island of Jobi (= Japen, Irian Jaya) which is the type locality of the species.

*Varanus juxtindicus* Böhme, Philipp & Ziegler, 2002

- 2002 *Varanus juxtindicus* Böhme, Philipp & Ziegler, Salamandra, 38 (1): 17. - Type locality: Rennell Island, Solomon Islands.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

*Varanus melinus* Böhme & Ziegler, 1997  
(fig. 9)

- 1997 *Varanus melinus* Böhme & Ziegler, Herpetofauna 19 (111): 26. - Type locality: Obi Island, Moluccas, Indonesia.



Fig. 13. *Varanus gilleni* Lucas & Frost, 1895: Jessy Gap near Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia, photo B. Eidenmüller.



Fig. 14. *Varanus salvadorii* (Peters & Doria, 1878): Irian Jaya, New Guinea, Indonesia, photo M.Auliya.



Fig. 15. *Varanus exanthematicus* (Bosc, 1792), adult: Nianing, Senegal, photo W. Böhme.



Fig. 16. *Varanus exanthematicus* (Bosc, 1792), juv.: Kpandu, Ghana, photo M.S. Hoogmoed.

Distribution.— Sula Islands (Mangole, Taliabu, Sanana), Bowokan and Banggai island groups, Moluccas, Indonesia. The type locality Obi Island is presumably only the place from where specimens have been shipped.

*Varanus spinulosus* Mertens, 1941

- 1941 *Varanus indicus spinulosus* Mertens, Senckenbergiana 23: 269. - Type locality: George Island near Ysabel, Solomon Islands.  
 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) indicus spinulosus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 271.  
 1963 *Varanus indicus spinulosus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 12.  
 1994 *Varanus spinulosus* - Sprackland, Herpetofauna, Sydney, 24 (2): 34.  
 1997 *Varanus (Euprepiosaurus) spinulosus* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.  
 1997 *Varanus spinulosus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl: xii.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

*Varanus yuwonoi* Harvey & Barker, 1998

- 1998 *Varanus yuwonoi* Harvey & Barker, Herpetologica 54 (1): 36 - Type locality: Gilolo (= Jailolo), Halmahera, Moluccas, Indonesia.

Distribution.— Halmahera, Moluccas, Indonesia.

Species group *Varanus prasinus*

Remark.— In his revision of the *V. prasinus* group Sprackland (1991) raised 2 former subspecies, viz. *beccarii* and *bogerti*, to species rank, relegating at the same time the taxon *kordensis* to the synonymy of *prasinus*, thus rendering the latter monotypic. In our revisory work which was mainly based on genital morphological characters (Ziegler & Böhme, 1997), we did not find evidence for this action wherefore we did not follow these proposals. However, as we did not see material of *bogerti* ourselves, we left this taxon preliminarily in specific rank. The same is also true for the two taxa described as new species by Sprackland (op. cit.), viz. *V. teriae* (= *V. keithhornei*, see below) and *V. telenesetes*. The taxonomic distinctness of *kordensis* as at least a distinct subspecies was already argued for by Becker et al. (1989). Jacobs (2002) was able to provide new, additional evidence of *kordensis* being a full species.

*Varanus prasinus* (Schlegel, 1839)

- 1839 *Monitor prasinus* Schlegel, Abb. Amphib.: 78. - Type locality: "Westküste von Neuguinea" (= Fort de Bus, Bai Oeroe Langoroe, fide Mertens, 1963).  
 1856 *Varanus prasinus* - Bleeker, Reis Minahassa 1: 278.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) prasinus* Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 168; 466: 291.  
 1963 *Varanus prasinus* (Subgenus *Odatria*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 14.  
 1988 *Varanus (Euprepiosaurus) prasinus* Böhme, Bonn. zool. Monogr., 27: 139.  
 1997 *Varanus prasinus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xii.

Distribution.— New Guinea and northwestern offshore islands (Misol, Salawati, Schouten Island), Aru Islands.

*Varanus prasinus prasinus* (Schlegel, 1839)

- 1839 *Monitor prasinus* Schlegel, Abb. Amphib.: 78. - Type locality: "Westküste von Neuguinea" (= Fort de Bus, Bai Oeroe Langoroe, fide Mertens, 1963).  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) prasinus prasinus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 168; 466: 292.  
 1963 *Varanus prasinus prasinus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 14.  
 1997 *Varanus prasinus prasinus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xii.

Distribution.— New Guinea and the northwestern offshore islands Misol, Salawati and Schouten Island.

*Varanus prasinus beccarii* (Doria, 1874)

- 1874 *Monitor beccarii* Doria, Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. nat. Genova 6: 331. - Type locality: Wokam, Aru Islands.  
 1915 *Monitor kordensis beccarii* de Rooij, Rept. Indoast. Archip.: 152.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) prasinus beccarii* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 170; 466: 296.  
 1963 *Varanus prasinus beccarii* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 15.  
 1991 *Varanus beccarii* - Sprackland, Mem. Queensl. Mus. 30 (3): 572.  
 1997 *Varanus prasinus beccarii* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 165.  
 1997 *Varanus prasinus beccarii* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xii.

Distribution.— Aru Islands.

Remark.— Presumably closer to *V. kordensis* than to *V. prasinus*.

*Varanus bogerti* Mertens, 1950

- 1950 *Varanus prasinus bogerti* Mertens, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 1456: 3. - Type locality: Fergussou (Moratai) Island, D'Entrecasteaux archipelago.  
 1963 *Varanus prasinus bogerti* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 15.  
 1991 *Varanus bogerti* - Sprackland, Mem. Queensl. Mus. 30 (3): 571.  
 1997 *Varanus bogerti* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: x.

Distribution.— Small archipelagos at the SE corner of New Guinea: next to Ferguson also known from Trobriand (north of d'Entrecasteaux) and St. Aignan, Louisiade archipelago.

*Varanus keithhornei* (Wells & Wellington, 1985)

- 1985 *Odatria keithhornei* Wells & Wellington, Aust. J. Herpetol., Suppl. 1: 21. - Type locality: Buthen Buthen, Nesbit River, Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, Australia.  
 1991 *Varanus teriae* Sprackland, Mem. Queensl. Mus. 30 (3): 570. - Type locality: Buthen Buthen, Nesbit River, Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, Australia (syn. according to Ziegler & Böhme, 1997).  
 1997 *Varanus keithhorni* - Bennett, Warane der Welt: 208.  
 1997 *Varanus (Euprepisaurus) keithhornei* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.  
 1997 *Varanus keithhornei* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xi.

Distribution.— Torres Street islands and northern Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, Australia.

Remark.— The nomenclaturally complicated matter of the name *keithhornei* having to be used instead of *teriae* is extensively explained in Ziegler & Böhme (1997).



Fig. 17. *Varanus albigularis albigularis* (Daudin, 1802): Mountain Zebra Park, Republic of South Africa, photo C.N. Neumann.



Fig. 18. *Varanus albigularis microstictus* Boettger, 1893: Arusha, Tanzania, photo M.S. Hoogmoed.





Fig. 19. *Varanus yemenensis* Böhme, Joger & Schätti, 1989: As Sokhna, Yemen, photo W. Böhme.



Fig. 20. *Varanus niloticus* (Linnaeus, 1766): St. Louis, Senegal, photo T. Wilms.

*Varanus kordensis* (A.B. Meyer, 1874)

- 1874 *Monitor kordensis* A.B. Meyer, Mber. Berlin. Akad. Wiss. 1874: 131. - Type locality: Kordo, Mysore (= Biak), Schouten archipel, NW Irian Jaya, Indonesia  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) prasinus kordensis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 169-466: 294.  
 1963 *Varanus prasinus kordensis* - Böhme, Das Tierreich 79: 15.  
 1997 *Varanus prasinus kordensis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xii.  
 2002 *Varanus kordensis* - Jacobs, herpotofauna, Weinstadt 24 (137): 21.

Distribution.— Known with certainty only from the island of Biak (= Kordo), Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

*Varanus macraei* Böhme & Jacobs, 2001  
(fig. 10)

- 2001 *Varanus macraei* Böhme & Jacobs, Herpetofauna, Weinstadt 23 (133): 7. - Type locality: Batanta Island, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.

Distribution.— Known with certainty only from the type locality.

*Varanus telensestes* Sprackland, 1991

- 1991 *Varanus telensestes* Sprackland, Mem. Queensl. Mus. 30 (3): 569. - Type locality: Roussel (= Rossel) Island, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea.  
 1997 *Varanus (Euprepiosaurus) telensestes* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.  
 1997 *Varanus telensestes* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xii.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

Subgenus *Odatria* Gray, 1838

- 1838 *Odatria* Gray, Ann. nat. Hist., London, 1: 394. - Type species (by monotypy): *Varanus tristis* (Schlegel, 1839).  
 1843 *Cylindrurus* Fitzinger, Syst. rept. 1: 19. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus tristis* (Schlegel, 1839).  
 1843 *Agalmatosaurus* Fitzinger, Syst. Rept. 1: 19. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus timorensis* (Gray, 1831).

Species group *Varanus acanthurus**Varanus acanthurus* Boulenger, 1885

- 1885 *Varanus acanthurus* Boulenger (new name for *Odatria ocellata* Gray, 1845), Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus.: 8. - Type locality: Northwest coast of Australia.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) acanthurus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 307.  
 1963 *Varanus acanthurus* (Subgenus *Odatria*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 4.  
 1997 *Varanus acanthurus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiii.

Distribution.— Northwest and Central Australia.

*Varanus acanthurus acanthurus* Boulenger, 1885

- 1885 *Varanus acanthurus* Boulenger (new name for *Odatria ocellata* Gray, 1845), Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus.: 8. - Type locality: Northwest coast of Australia.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) acanthurus acanthurus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 311.  
 1963 *Varanus acanthurus acanthurus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 4.  
 1997 *Varanus acanthurus acanthurus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiii.

Distribution.— Northern and northwestern Australia (north of Broome).

*Varanus acanthurus brachyurus* Sternfeld, 1919

- 1919 *Varanus acanthurus brachyurus* Sternfeld, Senckenbergiana 1: 78. - Type locality: Hermannsburg, Funke River, Central Australia.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) acanthurus brachyurus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 309.  
 1963 *Varanus acanthurus brachyurus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 4.  
 1997 *Varanus acanthurus brachyurus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiii.

Distribution.— From West Australia (Broome and area south of it, Montebello Islands) through Central Australia to Queensland.

*Varanus acanthurus insulanicus* Mertens, 1958

- 1958 *Varanus (Odatria) acanthurus insulanicus* Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 39: 233. - Type locality: Groote Eylandt, Gulf of Carpentaria, Northern Territory, Australia.  
 1987 *Varanus acanthurus insulanicus* - King & Horner, The Beagle 4 (1): 78.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

*Varanus baritji* King & Horner, 1987

- 1987 *Varanus baritji* King & Horner, The Beagle 4 (1): 74. - Type locality: Mirrngadja, Arafura Swamp, Northern Territory, Australia.  
 1997 *Varanus (Odatria) baritji* Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.  
 1997 *Varanus baritji* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiii.

Distribution.— “Top end” of Northern Territory, Australia.

*Varanus primordius* Mertens, 1942

- 1942 *Varanus acanthurus primordius* Mertens, Zool. Anz. 138: 41. - Type locality: “North Australia”.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) acanthurus primordius* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 307.  
 1963 *Varanus acanthurus primordius* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 4.  
 1966 *Varanus primordius* - Storr, Copeia 1966 (3): 583.

Distribution.— Far north of Northern Territory, possibly also northernmost West Australia.



Fig. 21. *Varanus griseus griseus* (Daudin, 1803): Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, photo T. Wilms.

*Varanus storri* Mertens, 1966

1966 *Varanus storri* Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 47: 437. - Type locality: Charters Towers, Queensland, Australia.

Distribution.— Vicinity of Charters Towers, Queensland, Australia; isolated population reaches the Kimberleys in the west.

*Varanus storri storri* Mertens, 1966

1966 *Varanus storri* Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 47: 437. - Type locality: Charters Towers, Queensland, Australia.

1980 *Varanus storri storri* - Storr, Rec. West Aust. Mus. 8 (2): 283.

1997 *Varanus (Odatria) storii storri* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus storri storri* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xv.

Distribution.— Vicinity of Charters Towers, Queensland, Australia.

*Varanus storri ocreatus* Storr, 1980

(fig. 11)

1980 *Varanus storri ocreatus* Storr, Rec. West Aust. Mus. 8 (2): 283. - Type locality: Argyle Downs airstrip, Western Australia.

1997 *Varanus storri ocreatus* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus storri ocreatus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xv.

Distribution.— Kimberleys, Western Australia, and adjoining Northern Territory.

*Varanus brevicauda* Boulenger, 1898  
(fig. 12)

1898 *Varanus brevicauda* Boulenger, Proc. zool. Soc. London 1898: 916, 920. - Type locality: Sherlock River, Nicol Bay, Western Australia.

1942 *Varanus (Odatria) brevicauda* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 317.

1963 *Varanus brevicauda* (Subgenus *Odatria*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 6.

1997 *Varanus brevicauda* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiii.

Distribution.— Arid regions of northern Western Australia and southern Northern Territory to western Queensland, Australia.

*Varanus caudolineatus* Boulenger, 1898

1898 *Varanus caudolineatus* Boulenger, Proc. zool. Soc. London 1898: 916, 920. - Type locality: Champion Bay, north of Perth, Western Australia.

1942 *Varanus (Odatria) caudolineatus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 175; 466:315.

1963 *Varanus caudolineatus* (Subgenus *Odatria*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 6.

1997 *Varanus caudolineatus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiv.

Distribution.— Coast and interior of central Western Australia.

*Varanus eremius* Lucas & Frost, 1895

1895 *Varanus eremius* Lucas & Frost, Proc. Soc. Victoria 7: 267. - Type locality: "Central Australia" = Idracowra, Northern Territory, Australia.

1942 *Varanus (Odatria) eremius* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 173; 466: 312.

1963 *Varanus eremius* (Subgenus *Odatria*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 7.

1997 *Varanus eremius* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiv.

Distribution.— Central coastal regions of Western Australia to desert areas of South Australia and Northern Territory.

*Varanus gilleni* Lucas & Frost, 1895  
(fig. 13)

1895 *Varanus gilleni* Lucas & Frost, Proc. Soc. Victoria 7: 266. - Type locality: "Central Australia" = between Glen Edith and Deering Creek, Central Australia.

1942 *Varanus (Odatria) gilleni* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 175; 466: 312.

1963 *Varanus gilleni* (Subgenus *Odatria*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 9.

1997 *Varanus gilleni* Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiv.

Distribution.— Desert areas of South Australia and the Northern Territory through the interior of Western Australia to the northwest coast.

*Varanus glauerti* Mertens, 1957

1957 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis glauerti* Mertens, West. Aust. Natural. 5: 183. - Type locality: Wotjulum, West Kimberley, Western Australia.

1958 *Varanus (Odatria) glauerti* - Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 39: 236.

1963 *Varanus glauerti* (Subgenus *Odatria*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 9.

1997 *Varanus glauerti* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiv.

Distribution.— Known only from Kimberley region of Western Australia.

*Varanus glebopalma* Mitchell, 1955

1955 *Varanus glebopalma* Mitchell, Rec. South Aust. Mus. 11: 389. - Type locality: southern edge of the Lake Hubert, Northern Territory, Australia.

1963 *Varanus glebopalma* (Subgenus *Odatria*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 9.

1997 *Varanus glebopalma* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiv.

Distribution.— Kimberley region of Western Australia eastwards to western Queensland, Australia.

*Varanus kingorum* Storr, 1980

1980 *Varanus kingorum* Storr, Rec. West. Aust. Mus. 8 (2): 268. - Type locality: Timber Creek, Northern Territory, Australia.

1997 *Varanus (Odatria) kingorum* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus kingorum* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiv.

Distribution.— Known only from the vicinity of the type locality around the northern end of the border between the Northern Territory and the Kimberley area in Western Australia.

*Varanus mitchelli* Mertens, 1958

1958 *Varanus mitchelli* Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 39: 256.

1963 *Varanus mitchelli* (Subgenus *Varanus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 13.

1988 *Varanus (Odatria) mitchelli* - Böhme, Bonn. zool. Monogr. 27: 139.

1997 *Varanus mitchelli* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiv.

Distribution.— Northern parts of the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

*Varanus pilbarensis* Storr, 1980

1980 *Varanus pilbarensis* Storr, Rec. West. Aust. Mus. 8 (2): 278. - Type locality: Chichester Range, Western Australia.

1997 *Varanus (Odatria) pilbarensis* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus pilbarensis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xiv.

Distribution.— Pilbara region, Western Australia.

*Varanus semiremex* Peters, 1869

- 1869 *Varanus (Odatria) semiremex* Peters, Mber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, 1869: 65. - Type locality: Cape York, Queensland, Australia.  
 1923 *Varanus boulengeri* Kinghorn, Rec. Aust. Mus. 14: 135. - Type locality: Coquet island, Howick archipelago, Queensland, Australia.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) semiremex* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 288.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) semiremex semiremex* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 290.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) semiremex boulengeri* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 166; 466: 289.  
 1963 *Varanus semiremex* (Subgenus *Odatria*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 18.  
 1997 *Varanus semiremex* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xv.

Distribution.— Coast of northern and eastern Queensland, Australia.

Species group *Varanus timorensis*

Remark.— The taxonomy of the *V. timorensis* species group is far from being resolved. Whereas it is clear that the former subspecies *scalaris* and *similis* are not at all conspecific with *timorensis* (Branch, 1982; Böhme, 1988; Ziegler & Böhme, 1997), it is less clear whether these two names represent two distinct species. Also the specific distinctness of *V. auffenbergi* from Roti Island has still to be demonstrated, as has the analogous status of other insular forms (in particular that of Kizar) of the Timor archipelago.

*Varanus timorensis* (Gray, 1831)

- 1831 *Monitor timorensis* Gray in Griffith, Anim. Kingd., Synopsis 9: 26. - Type locality: Timor.  
 1876 *Varanus timorensis* - Martens, Preuß. Exped. Ostasien, Zool. 1: 279.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 298.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis timorensis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 170; 466: 298.  
 1963 *Varanus timorensis timorensis* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 19.  
 1997 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14.  
 1997 *Varanus timorensis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr.: xvi.

Distribution.— Timor, Timor archipelago.

*Varanus auffenbergi* Sprackland, 1999

- 1999 *Varanus auffenbergi* Sprackland, Rept. Hobbyist 4 (6): 22. - Type locality: Roti Island near Timor.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

*Varanus scalaris* Mertens, 1941

- 1941 *Varanus timorensis scalaris* Mertens, Senckenbergiana 23: 266. - Type locality: Mission Beagle Bay, Dampier Land, NW Australia.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis scalaris* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 303.  
 1963 *Varanus timorensis scalaris* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 19.  
 1997 *Varanus (Odatria) scalaris* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 14  
 1997 *Varanus scalaris* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr.: xv.

Distribution.— Northwestern Australia.

*Varanus similis* Mertens, 1958

- 1958 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis similis* Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 39: 239. - Type locality: Groot Eylandt, Carpentaria Bay, Northern Territory, Australia.  
 1963 *Varanus timorensis similis* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 19.  
 1982 *Varanus similis* - Branch, J. Herpetol., 16: 37.  
 1997 *Varanus similis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xv.

Distribution.— Northern Australia, from Trachery Bay in the west to Queensland. Northern Australian off-coast islands and those in the Torres Strait; New Guinea.

*Varanus tristis* (Schlegel, 1838)

- 1838 *Monitor tristis* Schlegel, Abb. Amphib.: 72. - Type locality: Swan River, Western Australia.  
 1958 *Varanus tristis* - Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 39: 242.  
 1963 *Varanus tristis* (Subgenus *Odatria*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 19.  
 1997 *Varanus tristis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xvi.

Distribution.— Entire Australia with the exception of the south and the southeast.

*Varanus tristis tristis* (Schlegel, 1838)

- 1838 *Monitor tristis* Schlegel, Abb. Amphib.: 72. - Type locality: Swan River, Western Australia.  
 1838 *Odatria punctata* Gray, (not *Varanus punctatus* Merrem, 1820 = *Varanus b. bengalensis* (Daudin, 1802)) Ann. nat. Hist. London 1: 394. - Type locality: Sharks Bay, Western Australia.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis tristis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 172; 466: 304.  
 1958 *Varanus (Odatria) tristis tristis* - Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 39: 244.  
 1963 *Varanus tristis tristis* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 20.  
 1997 *Varanus tristis tristis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xvi.

Distribution.— Western and central Australia.

*Varanus tristis orientalis* Fry, 1913

- 1913 *Varanus punctatus* var. *orientalis* Fry, Rec. Aust. Mus. 10: 18. - Type locality: Eidsvold, upper Burnett River, Queensland, Australia.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis orientalis* - Mertens (in part), Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 301.  
 1942 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis tristis* - Mertens (in part), Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 304.  
 1963 *Varanus tristis orientalis* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 20.  
 1997 *Varanus tristis orientalis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xvi.

Distribution.— Northern and northeastern Australia.

Subgenus *Papusaurus* Mertens, 1962

- 1962 *Papusaurus* Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 43: 331. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus salvadorii* (Peters & Doria, 1878).



*Varanus salvadorii* (Peters & Doria, 1878)  
(fig. 14)

- 1878 *Monitor salvadorii* Peters & Doria, Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova 13: 337. - Type locality: Dorei, Irian Jaya, Indonesia.  
 1885 *Varanus salvadorii* - Boulenger, Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus. 2: 314.  
 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvadorii* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 164; 466: 286.  
 1962 *Varanus (Papusaurus) salvadorii* - Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 43 (5): 332.  
 1963 *Varanus salvadorii* (Subgenus *Papusaurus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 15.  
 1997 *Varanus salvadorii* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xvi.

Distribution.— New Guinea.

*Philippinosaurus* Mertens, 1959

- 1959 *Philippinosaurus* Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 40: 228. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus grayi* Boulenger, 1885 = *Varanus olivaceus* Hallowell, 1856.

*Varanus mabitang* Gaulke & Curio, 2001

- 2001 *Varanus mabitang* Gaulke & Curio, Spixiana 24 (3): 277. - Type locality: South Pandan Forest, Antique Province, Panay Island, Philippines.

Distribution.— Panay Island, Visayas archipelago, Philippines.

*Varanus olivaceus* Hallowell, 1856

- 1856 *Varanus olivaceus* Hallowell, Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philadelphia 8: 150. - Type locality: "Manilla" = Manila, Luzon, Philippines.  
 1885 *Varanus grayi* Boulenger, Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus. 2: 312 (new name for *Uranus ornatus* Gray, 1845). - Type locality: Philippines (Synonym according to Auffenberg, 1988).  
 1942 *Varanus grayi* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 199; 466: 369.  
 1959 *Varanus (Philippinosaurus) grayi* - Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 40: 229.  
 1963 *Varanus grayi* (Subgenus *Philippinosaurus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 10.  
 1988 *Varanus olivaceus* - Auffenberg, Gray's Monit. Liz.: 2.  
 1997 *Varanus (Philippinosaurus) olivaceus* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 15.  
 1997 *Varanus olivaceus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xvii.

Distribution.— Southern part of Luzon and Caranduanes islands, Philippines.

Subgenus *Polydaedalus* Wagler, 1830

- 1830 *Polydaedalus* Wagler, Natürl. Syst. Amphib.: 132, 164. - Type species (Fitzinger, 1843): *Varanus niloticus* (Linnaeus, 1766).  
 1843 *Pachysaurus* Fitzinger, Syst. Rept. 1: 20. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus albicularis* (Daudin, 1802).  
 1843 *Rhinoptyon* Fitzinger, Syst. Rept. 1: 20. - Type species (By original designation): *Varanus exanthematicus* (Bosc, 1792).  
 1845 *Regenia* Gray, Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus.: 8. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus albicularis* (Daudin, 1802).

Species group *Varanus exanthematicus**Varanus exanthematicus* (Bosc, 1792)  
(figs 15, 16)

- 1792 *Lacerta exanthematica* Bosc, Acta Soc. hist. Nat. 1: 25. - Type locality: "ad fluvium Senegal" = Senegal River.
- 1820 *Varanus exanthematicus* - Merrem, Tent. Syst. Amphib.: 60.
- 1830 *Varanus ocellatus* Heyden in Rüppell, Atlas Reise nördl. Afr., Rept.: 21. - Type locality: Kordofan.
- 1919 *Varanus exanthematicus exanthematicus* - K.P. Schmidt, Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist. 39: 480.
- 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) exanthematicus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 349.
- 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) exanthematicus exanthematicus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 189; 466: 352
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus* (Subgenus *Empagusia*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 7.
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus exanthematicus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 7.
- 1997 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) exanthematicus* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 15.
- 1997 *Varanus exanthematicus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xviii.

Distribution.— From Mauritania and Senegal throughout the African subsaharan savanna belt to Sudan and Eritrea.

*Varanus albigularis* (Daudin, 1802)

- 1802 *Tupinambis albigularis* Daudin, Hist. nat. Rept. 3: 72. - Type locality: unknown.
- 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) exanthematicus albigularis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 193; 466: 357.
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus albigularis* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 7.
- 1989 *Varanus albigularis* - Böhme, Joger & Schätti, Fauna Saudia Arabia 10: 434.
- 1991 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) albigularis* - Böhme, Mertensiella 2: 44.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xvii.

Distribution.— Southern half of Africa south and east of the Congo forest block, northwards to Ethiopia and Eritrea.

*Varanus albigularis albigularis* (Daudin, 1802)  
(fig. 17)

- 1802 *Tupinambis albigularis* Daudin, Hist. nat. Rept. 3: 72. - Type locality: unknown.
- 1831 *Varanus gilli* A. Smith, S. Afr. quart. J., 5: 16. - Type locality: "Mountainous districts of Graaf-Reinet and the Orange River.
- 1844 *Monitor exanthematicus capensis* Schlegel, (not *Lacerta capensis* Sparrman, 1783 = *Varanus niloticus*) - Type locality: "Vorgebirge der Guten Hoffnung" = Cape of Good Hope).
- 1919 *Varanus exanthematicus albigularis* - K.P. Schmidt, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 39: 483.
- 1942 *Varanus exanthematicus albigularis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 193; 466: 357.
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus albigularis* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 7.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis albigularis* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 15.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis albigularis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xvii.

Distribution.— Southern Africa, northwards to Angola, Zambia and Mozambique.

*Varanus albigularis angolensis* K.P. Schmidt, 1933

- 1933 *Varanus albigularis angolensis* K.P. Schmidt, Ann. Carnegie Mus. 22: 10. - Type locality: Gauca, Biha, Angola.
- 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) exanthematicus angolensis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465:195; 466: 359.
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus angolensis* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 8.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis angolensis* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 15.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis angolensis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xvii.

Distribution.— Angola and possibly neighbouring parts of Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

*Varanus albigularis microstictus* Boettger, 1893  
(fig. 18)

- 1893 *Varanus microstictus* Boettger, Kat. Rept.-Samml. Mus. senckenb. naturf. Ges. I: viii. - Type locality: "Abessinien" (= Ethiopia).
- 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) exanthematicus microstictus* Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 192; 466: 355.
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus microstictus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 8.
- 1991 *Varanus albigularis microstictus* - Böhme, Joger & Schätti, Fauna Saudia Arabia 10: 441.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis microstictus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xviii.

Distribution.— From Ethiopia and Somalia southwards to Tanzania.

*Varanus yemenensis* Böhme, Joger & Schätti, 1989  
(fig. 19)

- 1989 *Varanus yemenensis* Böhme, Joger & Schätti, Fauna of Saudi Arabia 10: 434.
- 1997 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) yemenensis* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 15.
- 1997 *Varanus yemenensis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xviii.

Distribution.— Mountaneous Tihama along the western coast of Yemen, from Aden in the south to the southern Asir Mountains, Saudi Arabia, in the north.

Species group *Varanus niloticus**Varanus niloticus* (Linnaeus, 1766)  
(fig. 20)

- 1766 *Lacerta nilotica* Linnaeus, Syst. Nat., Ed. 12 (1) I: 369. - Type locality: Egypt.
- 1768 *Stellio saurus* Laurenti, Synops. rept.: 56. - Type locality: "In Zeylania ad littora maris".
- 1783 *Lacerta capensis* Sparrman, Resa till Goda Hoppsudden: 749. - Type locality: Hinterbruyntjes Cave, Cape.
- 1788 *Lacertus tupinambis* Lacépède (in part), Hist. nat. Quadrup. ovip. 1 (Synops. method.): 251. - Type locality: Cape of Good Hope and Senegal.
- 1802 *Tupinambis elegans* Daudin (in part), Hist. nat. Rept. 3: 59. - Type locality: "Suriname".
- 1802 *Tupinambis stellatus* Daudin (in part), Hist. nat. Rept. 3: 59. - Type locality: From Senegal to Cape of Good Hope, restricted by Mertens (1942) to Senegal.

- 1819 *Monitor pulcher* Leach in Bowdich, Mission to Ashantee: 493. - Type locality: Fantee, Gold Coast (= Ghana).  
 1826 *Varanus niloticus* - Fitzinger, Neue Classif. Rept.: 50.  
 1844 *Monitor elegans senegalensis* Schlegel, Abb. Amphib: x. - Type locality: Senegal.  
 1942 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) niloticus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 318.  
 1942 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) niloticus niloticus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 177; 466: 320.  
 1963 *Varanus niloticus* (Subgenus *Polydaedalus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 13.  
 1963 *Varanus niloticus niloticus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 14.  
 1997 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) niloticus* - Böhme & Ziegler, Herpetol. J. 7: 161.  
 1997 *Varanus niloticus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xviii.

Distribution.— Whole subsaharan Africa, reaching the Mediterranean region along the Nile in the northeast, lacking only in the west and central African rain forests.

#### *Varanus ornatus* Daudin, 1803

- 1803 *Tupinambus ornatus* Daudin, Hist. nat. Rept. 8: 353. - Type locality: Malimbe, Cameroon.  
 1942 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) niloticus ornatus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 177; 466: 327.  
 1963 *Varanus niloticus ornatus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 14.  
 1997 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) ornatus* - Böhme & Ziegler, Herpetol. J. 7: 161.  
 1997 *Varanus ornatus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xviii.

Distribution.— West and central African rain forest.

#### Subgenus *Psammosaurus* Fitzinger, 1826

- 1826 *Psammosaurus* Fitzinger, Neue Classif. Rept.: 21, 50. - Type species (by monotypy): *Varanus griseus* (Daudin, 1803).

#### *Varanus griseus* (Daudin, 1803)

- 1803 *Tupinambis griseus* Daudin, Hist. nat. Rept. 8: 352. - Type locality: Egypt.  
 1885 *Varanus griseus* - Boulenger, Ca. Liz. Brit. Mus. 2: 306.  
 1942 *Varanus (Psammosaurus) griseus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 184; 466: 338.  
 1963 *Varanus griseus* (Subgenus *Psammosaurus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 10.

Distribution.— Northern Africa throughout the Sahara, Arabian peninsula and southwestern Asia eastwards to northwestern India.

#### *Varanus griseus griseus* (Daudin, 1803) (fig. 21)

- 1803 *Tupinambis griseus* Daudin, Hist. nat. Rept. 8: 352. - Type locality: Egypt.  
 1820 *Varanus scincus* Merrem, Tent. syst. Amphib: 59. - Type locality: Egypt.  
 1827 *Tupinambis arenarius* G. Geoffroy, Descr. Égypte Hist. nat. 1: 123. - Type locality: Egypt.  
 1834 *Varanus terrestris* Schinz, Naturgesch. Abb. Rept.: 94. - Type locality (restricted by Mertens, 1942): Cairo, Egypt.  
 1899 *Psammosaurus arabicus* Hemprich & Ehrenberg, Symbol. phys. zool. Amphib.: 3. - Type locality: Arabia.

- 1942 *Varanus (Psammosaurus) griseus* (in part) - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 338.  
 1954 *Varanus (Psammosaurus) griseus griseus* - Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 35: 354.  
 1963 *Varanus griseus griseus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 11.  
 1997 *Varanus griseus griseus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr., rev. Checkl.: xix.

Distribution.— From southern Morocco and Mauritania in the west through the Sahara to Egypt and Sudan; Arabian peninsula and southwestern Asia (southeastern Turkey, Syria, Libanon, Israel, Jordan, Iraq)

*Varanus griseus caspius* (Eichwald, 1831)

- 1831 *Psammosaurus caspius* Eichwald, Zool. spec. Ross. Polon., 3: 190. - Type locality (restricted by Mertens, 1942): Dardsha peninsula, east coast of the Caspian Sea.  
 1942 *Varanus (Psammosaurus) griseus* - Mertens (in part), Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 338.  
 1954 *Varanus (Psammosaurus) griseus caspius* - Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 35: 355.  
 1963 *Varanus griseus caspius* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 11.  
 1997 *Varanus griseus caspius* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xix.

Distribution.— From the eastern bank of the Caspian Sea through southern Kazakhstan to the Central Asian republics of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgistan and Tadzchikistan. Possibly also northern Baluchistan, Iran and Afghanistan.

*Varanus griseus koniecznyi* Mertens, 1954

- 1954 *Varanus (Psammosaurus) koniecznyi* Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 35: 355. - Type locality: Korangee near Karachi, Pakistan.  
 1963 *Varanus griseus koniecznyi* - Mertens, Das Tierreich, 79: 11.  
 1997 *Varanus griseus koniecznyi* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xix.

Distribution.— Southern Pakistan and northwestern India.

Subgenus *Soterosaurus* Ziegler & Böhme, 1997

- 1830 *Hydrosaurus* Wagler, Natürl. Syst. Amphib.: 132, 140. - Type species (Fitzinger, 1843): *Varanus salvator bivittatus* (Kuhl, 1820) (not *Hydrosaurus* Kaup, 1828: Agamidae)  
 1997 *Soterosaurus* Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 176. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus salvator* (Laurenti, 1768).

Remark.— New, but still unpublished evidence including molecular data indicates that the nominal polytypic species *V. salvator* is indeed a complicated species complex, certainly consisting of more than only one biological species. However, as this work is still in progress, I have to treat the group here traditionally as one polytypic species.

*Varanus salvator* (Laurenti, 1768)

- 1768 *Stellio salvator* Laurenti, Synops. Rept.: 56. - Type locality (designated by Mertens, 1959): Ceylon (= Sri Lanka).  
 1847 *Varanus salvator* - Cantor, J. asiat. Soc. Bengal 16: 635.

- 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 244.  
 1963 *Varanus salvator* (Subgenus *Varanus*) - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 16.  
 1997 *Varanus (Soterosaurus) salvator* - Ziegler & Böhme, Mertensiella 8: 177.  
 1997 *Varanus salvator* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xix.

Distribution.— From Sri Lanka and eastern India in the west through all Southeast Asia including southern China, Hainan and the entire Sunda archipelago to the Philippines, Sulawesi and Moluccas in the east.

*Varanus salvator salvator* (Laurenti, 1768)

- 1768 *Stellio salvator* Laurenti, Synops. Rept.: 56. - Type locality (designated by Mertens, 1959): Ceylon (= Sri Lanka).  
 1802 *Tupinambis elegans* Daudin (in part), Hist. nat. Rept. 3: 36. - Type locality: "Surinam".  
 1831 *Monitor exilis* Gray in Griffith, Anim. Kingd., 9 Synops.: 25. - Type locality: "India".  
 1834 *Varanus vittatus* Lesson in Bélanger, Voyage Ind. orient., Zool.: 307. - Type locality: Islands at the mouth of the Ganges River.  
 1844 *Monitor bivittatus* var. *celebensis* Schlegel, Abb. Amphib.: x. - Type locality: Celebes (= Sulawesi).  
 1937 *Varanus salvator salvator* - Mertens, Senckenbergiana 19: 178.  
 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator salvator* - Mertens (in part), Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 149; 466: 245.  
 1944 *Varanus salvator macromaculatus* Deraniyagala, Spol. zeylan. 24: 60-62. - Type locality: "Siam" (= Thailand).  
 1947 *Varanus salvator kabaragoya* Deraniyagala, Proc. 3rd ann. Sess. Ceylon Assoc. Sci. 2 (Absr.): 12. - Type locality: "Ceylon" (= Sri Lanka).  
 1947 *Varanus salvator nicobariensis* Deraniyagala, Proc. 3rd ann. Sess. Ceylon Assoc. Sci. 2 (Abstr.): 12. - Type locality: Nicobar islands.  
 1963 *Varanus salvator salvator* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 16.  
 1997 *Varanus salvator salvator* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checklist: xix.

Distribution.— The entire range of the species with the exception of Amphoe Langu, Satun Province, Thailand and the Tahi-Malaysian border area; of the Andaman Islands; of Java, Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, Flores, Ombai and Wetar as well as some additional neighbouring islands; of most of the Philippine Islands; and of the Togian Islands off Sulawesi.

*Varanus salvator andamanensis* Deraniyagala, 1944

- 1944 *Varanus salvator andamanensis* Deraniyagala, Spol. zeylan. 24: 60-61. - Type locality: Port Blair, Andaman Islands.  
 1963 *Varanus salvator andamanensis* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 17.  
 1997 *Varanus salvator andamanensis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xx.

Distribution.— Andaman Islands.

*Varanus salvator bivittatus* (Kuhl, 1820)

- 1820 *Tupinambis bivittatus* Kuhl, Beitr. Zool.: 125. - Type locality (designated by Mertens, 1959): Java.  
 1829 *Monitor nigricans* Cuvier, Règne Anim. (Éd. 2) 2: 27. - Type locality: Java.  
 1844 *Monitor bivittatus* var. *javanica* Schlegel, Abb. Amphib.: x. - Type locality: Java.  
 1845 *Varanus crocodilinus* Owen, Odontogr. 1: 265. - Type locality (restricted by Mertens, 1959): Java.

- 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator salvator* - Mertens (in part), Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 149; 466: 245.  
 1959 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator bivittatus* - Mertens, Senckenb. biol. 40: 237.  
 1963 *Varanus salvator bivittatus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 17.  
 1997 *Varanus salvator bivittatus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xx.

Distribution.— Java, Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, Flores, Ombai (Alor), Wetar and some neighbouring islands within the Sunda arch, Indonesia.

*Varanus salvator cumingi* Martin, 1838

- 1838 *Varanus cumingi* Martin, Proc. zool. Soc. London 1838: 69. - Type locality: Mindanao, Philippines.  
 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator cumingi* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 154; 466: 256.  
 1963 *Varanus salvator cumingi* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 17.  
 1997 *Varanus salvator cumingi* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xx.

Distribution.— Islands of Mindanao, Leyte, Samar, Bohol and Basilan, Philippines.

*Varanus salvator komaini* Nutaphand, 1987

- 1987 *Varanus salvator komaini* Nutaphand, J. Thai Zool. Center 2 (15): 51. - Type locality: Amphoe Langgu, Satun Province, Thailand, and Thai-Malaysian border area (according to Lauprasert & Thirakupt, 2001).  
 2001 *Varanus salvator komaini* - Lauprasert & Thirakupt, Nat. Hist. J. Chulalongkorn Univ. 1 (1): 39, 40.

Distribution.— Known only from the type locality.

*Varanus salvator marmoratus* (Wiegmann, 1834)

- 1834 *Hydrosaurus marmoratus* Wiegmann, in Meyen, Reisen um die Erde 3: 446. - Type locality (restricted by Mertens, 1942): San Mateo near Manila, Philippines.  
 1844 *Monitor bivittatus philippensis* Schlegel, Abb. Amphib.: x. - Type locality: Manila, Luzon, Philippines.  
 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator marmoratus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 465: 154; 466: 254.  
 1944 *Varanus salvator philippinensis* Deraniyagala, Spol. zeylan. 24: 61. - Type locality: Luzon, Philippines.  
 1963 *Varanus salvator marmoratus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 17.  
 1997 *Varanus salvator marmoratus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xx.

Distribution.— Islands of Luzon, Palawan, Calamian and Sulu archipelago, Philippines.

*Varanus salvator nuchalis* (Günther, 1872)

- 1872 *Hydrosaurus nuchalis* Günther, Proc. zool. Soc. London 1872: 145. - Type locality: Philippines.  
 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator nuchalis* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 258.  
 1963 *Varanus salvator nuchalis* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 18.  
 1997 *Varanus salvator nuchalis* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xx.

Distribution.— Islands of Cebu, Ticao, Negros, Panay and Masbate, Philippines.

*Varanus salvator togianus* (Peters, 1872)

1872 *Monitor (Hydrosaurus) togianus* Peters, Mber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin 1872: 582. - Type locality: Timotti, Togian Islands off Sulawesi.

1941 *Varanus salvator togianus* - Mertens, Senckenbergiana 23: 272.

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator togianus* - Mertens, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges. 466: 253.

1963 *Varanus salvator togianus* - Mertens, Das Tierreich 79: 18.

1997 *Varanus salvator togianus* - Böhme, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.: xx.

Distribution.— Togian Islands, Sulawesi, Indonesia.

Remark.— If future studies will demonstrate the Togian population to occur not only on the small offshore archipelago, but also on Sulawesi itself, its name will be endangered by *celebensis* Schlegel, 1844 (see above under *V. s. salvator*). However, as indicated already in the comment under *Soterosaurus*, even more nomenclatural changes will most likely be unavoidable for this entire group.

### Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere thanks Dr Ger van Vliet and Dr W. Wijnstekers (CITES Geneva) for their interest in the preparation of the present checklist, to Dr Marinus S. Hoogmoed (NNM Leiden) for his advice and valuable comments, to my colleague Dr Thomas Ziegler (ZFMK Bonn) for carefully and critically reading a first draft of the manuscript, and last but not least to my long-time assistant, Mrs Ursula Bott (ZFMK Bonn) for her help in preparing the final version.

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Received: November 15, 2002

Accepted: March 14, 2003

Edited: M.S. Hoogmoed

