

CHECKLIST OF THE LIVING MONITOR LIZARDS OF THE WORLD (FAMILY VARANIDAE)

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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 numerous 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 had 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 of 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 this 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 from 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.

List of taxa

Genus *Varanus* MERREM, 1820

1820 *Varanus* MERREM, Tent. Syst. Amphib., p. 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, Termesztudományi Közlöny, Budapest, 59: 284. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus komodoensis* OUWENS, 1912.

Varanus giganteus (GRAY, 1845)

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

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

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) giganteus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 276.

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

1997 *Varanus giganteus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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. London, 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, p. 52.

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) gouldii* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 281.

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

2000 *Varanus gouldii* - Int. Zool. 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* was in the meantime 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)

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

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

- - *Varanus gouldii flavirufus* MERTENS, 1958

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

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

1997 *Varanus flavirufus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., p. 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 rather 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 this 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., Leipzig, 159: 18. - Type locality: Monigub Pass, Stirling Range, southwestern Australia.

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

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

1997 *Varanus rosenbergi* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. viii.

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

- *Varanus panoptes* STORR, 1980

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

1991 *Varanus gouldii* - BÖHME, Mertensiella, Bonn, 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

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

Distribution: Kimberley, Western Australia, and entire northern part of the Northern Territory, Australia.

- - *Varanus panoptes horni* BÖHME 1988

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

1997 *Varanus gouldii horni* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., p. 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., Perth, 8 (2): 276. - Type locality: Wilgie Mia, NNW of Cue, West Australia.

1997 *Varanus gouldii rubidus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 100, 466: 278.

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

1997 *Varanus komodoensis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., Perth, 3: 14. - Type locality: Moola Bulla Cattle Station near Halls Creek, East Kimberly, Western Australia.
- 1956 *Varanus bulliwallah* WORRELL, Aust. Zool., Sydney, 12: 201. - Type locality: Near Belyando, Bulliwallah Station, Queensland, Australia.
- 1963 *Varanus mertensi* (Subgenus *Varanus*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 13.
- 1997 *Varanus mertensi* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. viii.

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

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., London, (7) 18: 440. - Type locality: Alexandria, Northern Territory, Australia
- 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) spenceri* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 285.
- 1963 *Varanus spenceri* - Mertens, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 18.
- 1997 *Varanus spenceri* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. viii.

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

Varanus varius (SHAW, 1790)

- 1790 *Lacerta varia* SHAW, in WHITE: J. Voyage New South Wales, App.: p. 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., Marburg an der Lahn, p. 58.
- 1836 *Varanus bellii* DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, Erpétol. gén., Paris, 3: 493. - Type locality: Australia.
- 1870 *Varanus (Hydrosaurus) mustelinus* DE BORRE, Bull. Acad. Belg., Bruxelles, (2) 29: 124. - Type locality: "Cote de Guinée".

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) varius* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 157; 466: 273.

1963 *Varanus varius* (Subgenus *Varanus*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 20.

1997 *Varanus varius* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., London, 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., Frankfurt am Main, 462: 16; 466: 240. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus bengalensis* (DAUDIN, 1802).

1942 *Dendrovaranus* MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 462: 16; 466: 241. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus rudicollis* (GRAY, 1845).

1942 *Tectovaranus* MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 462: 16; 466: 242. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus dumerili* (SCHLEGEL, 1837).

Remark: The Mertensian subgenera considered here to be synonymous with *Empagusia* are certainly forming a common (BÖHME, 1988, BECKER & AL. 1989), though rather inhomogenous (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 reinstated again as such.

Species group *Varanus bengalensis*

- *Varanus bengalensis* (DAUDIN, 1802)

1802 *Tupinambis bengalensis* DAUDIN, Hist. nat. Rept., Paris, 3: 36. - Type locality: "Surinam" (in error).

1802 *Tupinambis cepedianus* DAUDIN, Hist. nat. Rept., Paris, 3: 43. - Type locality: unknown.

1802 *Lacerta argus* DAUDIN (in part), Hist. nat. Rept., Paris, 3: 117. - Type locality: "Surinam".

1820 *Varanus punctatus* MERREM, Tent. syst. Amphib., Marburg an der Lahn, p. 59. - Type locality: Bengal.

- 1820 *Varanus taraguira* MERREM (in part), Tent. Syst. Amphib., Marburg an der Lahn, p. 59.
- Type locality: "In America meridionali".
- 1829 *Monitor gemmatus* GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE, Iconogr. Règne Anim., Paris, Rept. 1: pl. 3. -
1838 Rept. 3: pp. 7, 24. - Type locality: "Indes Orientales".
- 1831 *Monitor heraldicus* GRAY in GRIFFITH, Anim. Kingd., 9 Synops.: p. 27. - Type locality:
Bengal.
- 1836 *Varanus bengalensis* - DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, Erpétol. gén., Paris, 3: 480.
- 1839 *Monitor inornatus* SCHLEGEL, Abb. Amphib., p. 72. - Type locality: "Neu Holland".
- 1842 *Varanus bibronii* BLYTH, J. asiat. Soc. Bengal, Calcutta, 11: 869. - Type locality:
unknown.
- 1845 *Uaranus lunatus* GRAY, Cat. liz. Brit. Mus., London, p. 10. - Type locality: India.
- 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) bengalensis* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am
Main, 465: 184; 466: 334.
- 1963 *Varanus bengalensis* (Subgenus *Indovaranus*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 5.
- 1987 *Varanus irrawadicus* YANG & LI, Chinese Herpetol. Res., Berkeley, 1: 60. - Type locality:
Wandering Valley, Yunnan Prov., southern China.
- 1996 *Varanus bengalensis irrawadicus* - DE LISLE, Nat. Hist. Monit. Liz., p. 119.
- 1997 *Varanus bengalensis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am
Main, p. 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., p. 27. - Type locality:
Java, Indonesia.
- 1836 *Varanus nebulosus* - DUMÉRIL & BIBRON, Erpétool. gén., Paris, 3: 483.
- 1942 *Varanus (Indovaranus) bengalensis nebulosus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf.
Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 184; 466: 332.
- 1963 *Varanus bengalensis nebulosus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 5.
- 1997 *Varanus bengalensis nebulosus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.,
Frankfurt am Main, p. 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)

- 1839 *Monitor dumerili* SCHLEGEL, Abb. Amphib., p. 78. - Type locality: Banjarmasin, southeastern Borneo, Indonesia.
- 1858 *Varanus dumerili* - BLEEKER, Tijdschr. Nederl. Ind., Batavia, & Den Haag, 16: 188.
- 1881 *Varanus macrolepis* BLANFORD, J. asiat. Soc. Bengal, Calcutta, 50 (2): 239. - Type locality: Tenasserim, most likely environs of Tavoy.
- 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., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 197; 466: 364.
- 1942 *Varanus (Tectovaranus) dumerilii heteropholis* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 364.
- 1963 *Varanus dumerilii dumerilii* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 6.
- 1963 *Varanus dumerilii heteropholis* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 9: 6.
- 1997 *Varanus (Empagusia) dumerilii* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 14.
- 1997 *Varanus dumerilii* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. x.

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

Varanus flavescens (HARDWICKE & GRAY, 1827)

- 1827 *Monitor flavescens* HARDWICKE & GRAY, Zool. J., London, 3: 226. - Type locality: "India".
- 1830 *Varanus russellii* HEYDEN in RÜPPELL, Atlas Reise nördl. Afrika, Rept.: p. 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., p. x. - Type locality: Bengal.
- 1847 *Varanus flavescens* - CANTOR, J. asiat. Soc. Bengal, Calcutta, 16: 634.
- 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) flavescens* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 187; 466: 347.
- 1963 *Varanus flavescens* (Subgenus *Empagusia*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 8.
- 1997 *Varanus flavescens* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. x.

Distribution: From Sind, Pakistan, to Bangladesh.

Varanus rudicollis (GRAY, 1845)

- 1845 *Uaranus rudicollis* GRAY, Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus., London, p. 10. - Type locality: "Philippines".
1885 *Varanus rudicollis* - BOULENGER, Cat. Liz. Brit. Mus., London, 2: 313.
1932 *Varanus scutigerulus* BARBOUR, Proc. New Engl. zool. Club, Cambridge/Mass., 13: 1. -
Type locality: Kampoing Ulu, Malam River, Sarawak, Malaysia.
1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator scutigerulus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges.,
Frankfurt am Main, 466: 259.
1942 *Varanus (Dendrovaranus) rudicollis* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt
am Main, 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, Berlin, 79: 15.
1997 *Varanus (Empagusia) rudicollis* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 14.
1997 *Varanus rudicollis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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).

Species group *Varanus indicus*

- *Varanus indicus* (DAUDIN, 1802)

- 1802 *Tupinambis indicus* DAUDIN, Hist. nat. Rept., Paris, 3: 46. - Type locality: "Amboine" = Ambon, Moluccas, Indonesia.
1820 *Varanus guttatus* MERREM, Tent. Syst.- Amphib., Marburg an der Lahn, p. 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, Frankfurt am Main, 8: 276. - Type locality: Durdjela, Wammer, Aru Islands.
- 1929 *Varanus tsukamotoi* KISHIDA, Lansania, Tokyo, 1: 13. - Type locality: Saipan, Caroline Islands.
- 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) indicus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 260.
- 1942 *Varanus indicus indicus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 154; 466: 263.
- 1942 *Varanus indicus kalabeck* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 462: 270.
- 1963 *Varanus indicus indicus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 12.
- 1963 *Varanus indicus kalabeck* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 12.
- 1988 *Varanus (Euprepiosaurus) indicus* - BÖHME, Bonn. zool. Monogr., 27: 139.
- 1997 *Varanus indicus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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; Newguinea 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)

- 1999 *Varanus caerulivirens* ZIEGLER, BÖHME & PHILIPP, Herpetozoa, Wien, 12 (1/2): 46. - Type locality: Halmahera, Moluccas, Indonesia.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality.

- *Varanus cerambonensis* PHILIPP, BÖHME & ZIEGLER, 1999

- 1999 *Varanus cerambonensis* PHILIPP, BÖHME & ZIEGLER, Spixiana, München, 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., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 263.

1963 *Varanus indicus indicus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 12.

1994 *Varanus doreanus* - BÖHME, HORN & ZIEGLER, Salamandra, Rheinbach, 30 (2): 132.

1994 *Varanus doreanus doreanus* - BÖHME, HORN & ZIEGLER, Salamandra, Rheinbach, 30 (2): 137.

1997 *Varanus doreanus doreanus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1842-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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, Rheinbach, 30 (2): 137. - Type locality: Blanche Bay, New Britain, Bismarck archipelago.

1997 *Varanus doreanus finschi* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 263.

1951 *Varanus karlschmidtii* (Subgenus *Varanus*) MERTENS, Fieldiana, Chicago, 31: 467. - Type locality: Marienberg, Sepik River, Papua Newguinea (Syn. according to BÖHME 1991: 46).

1991 *Varanus jobiensis* - BÖHME, Mertensiella, Bonn, 2: 46.

1997 *Varanus (Euprepiosaurus) jobiensis* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus jobiensis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xi.

Distribution: Widespread over most parts of New Guinea, also on the offshore island of Jobi (= Japen, Irian Kaya) 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

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

Distribution: Sula Islands Mangole, Taliabu, Sanana and 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, Frankfurt am Main, 23: 269. - Type locality: George Island near Ysabel, Solomon Islands.

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) indicus spinulosus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 271.

1963 *Varanus indicus spinulosus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 12.

1994 *Varanus spinulosus* - SPRACKLAND, Herpetofauna, Sydney, 24 (2): 34.

1997 *Varanus (Euprepiosaurus) spinulosus* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus spinulosus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xii.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality.

- *Varanus yuwonoi* HARVEY & BARKER, 1998

1998 *Varanus yuwonoi* HARVEY & BARKER, Herpetologica, Lawrence, 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 2 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., p. 78. - Type locality: "Westküste von Neuguinea" (= Fort de Bus, Bai Oeroe Langoroe, fide MERTENS 1963).

1856 *Varanus prasinus* - BLEEKER, Reis Minahasta, 1: 278.

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) prasinus* MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 168; 466: 291.

1963 *Varanus prasinus* (Subgenus *Odatia*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 14.

1988 *Varanus (Euprepiosaurus) prasinus* BÖHME, Bonn.zool. Monogr., 27: 139.

1997 *Varanus prasinus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., p. xii.

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

- - *Varanus prasinus prasinus* (SCHLEGEL, 1839)

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) prasinus prasinus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 168; 466: 292.

1963 *Varanus prasinus prasinus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 14.

1997 *Varanus prasinus prasinus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xii.

Distribution: New Guinea and the northwestern offshore islands Misol and Salawati.

- - *Varanus prasinus beccarii* (DORIA, 1874)

1874 *Monitor beccarii* DORIA, Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. nat. Genova, 6: 331. - Type locality: Wokam, Aru Islands.

1912 *Monitor kordensis beccarii* DE ROOIJ, Rept. Indo-aust. Archip., Leiden, p. 152.

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) prasinus beccarii* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 170; 466: 296.

1963 *Varanus prasinus beccarii* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, 79: 15.

1991 *Varanus beccarii* - SPRACKLAND, Mem. Queensl. Mus., Brisbane, 30 (3): 572.

1997 *Varanus prasinus beccarii* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 165.

1997 *Varanus prasinus beccarii* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xii.

Distribution: Aru Islands.

- *Varanus bogerti* MERTENS, 1950

1950 *Varanus prasinus bogerti* MERTENS, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York, 1456: 3. - Type locality: Fergusson (Morotai) Island, D'Entrecasteaux archipelago.

1963 *Varanus prasinus bogerti* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 15.

1991 *Varanus bogerti* - SPRACKLAND, Mem. Queensl. Mus., Brisbane, 30 (3): 571.

1997 *Varanus bogerti* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. x.

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

- *Varanus keithhornei* (WELLS & WELLINGTON, 1985)

1985 *Odatia 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., Brisbane, 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, p. 208.

1997 *Varanus (Euprepisaurus) keithhornei* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus keithhornei* BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xi.

Distribution: Torres Strait islands and northern Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, Australia.

Remark: The nomenclaturally most complicated matter of the name *keithornei* having to be in use instead of *teriae* is extensively explained in ZIEGLER & BÖHME (1997).

- *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., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 169 466: 294.

1963 *Varanus prasinus kordensis* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 15.

1997 *Varanus prasinus kordensis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p.xii.

2002 *Varanus kordensis* - JACOBS, Salamandra, Rheinbach, in press.

- *Varanus macraei* BÖHME & JACOBS, 2001

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. Possibly also on Waigeu.

- *Varanus telenesetes* SPRACKLAND, 1991

1991 *Varanus telenesetes* SPRACKLAND, Mem. Queensl. Mus., Brisbane, 30 (3): 569. - Type locality: Roussel (= Rossel) Island, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea.

1997 *Varanus (Euprepiosaurus) telenesetes* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus telenesetes* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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 *Odatia ocellata* GRAY, 1845), Cat. Liz.
Brit. Mus., London, p. 8. - Type locality: Northwest coast of Australia.

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) acanthurus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am
Main, 466:307.

1963 *Varanus acanthurus* (Subgenus *Odatia*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 4.

1997 *Varanus acanthurus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am
Main, p. xiii.

Distribution: North West and Central Australia.

- - *Varanus acanthurus acanthurus* BOULENGER, 1885

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) acanthurus acanthurus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges.,
Frankfurt am Main, 466: 311.

1963 *Varanus acanthurus acanthurus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 4.

1997 *Varanus acanthurus acanthurus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.,
Frankfurt am Main, p. xiii.

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

- - *Varanus acanthurus brachyurus* STERNFELD, 1919

1919 *Varanus acanthurus brachyurus* STERNFELD, Senckenbergiana, Frankfurt am Main,
1: 78. - Type locality: Hermannsburg, Funke River, Central Australia.

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) acanthurus brachyurus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges.,
Frankfurt am Main

1963 *Varanus acanthurus brachyurus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 4.

1997 *Varanus acanthurus brachyurus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl.,
Frankfurt am Main, p. 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 (Odatia) acanthurus insulanicus* MERTENS, Senckenb. biol. Frankfurt am Main, 39: 233. - Type locality: Groote Eylandt, Gulf of Carpentaria, Northern Territory, Australia.

1987 *Varanus acanthurus insulanicus* - KING & HORNER, The Beagle, Darwin, 4 (1): 78.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality.

- *Varanus baritji* KING & HORNER, 1987

1987 *Varanus baritji* KING & HORNER, The Beagle, Darwin, 4 (1): 74. - Type locality: Mirrngadja, Arafura Swamp, Northern Territory, Australien.

1997 *Varanus (Odatia) baritji* ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus baritji* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., p. xiii.

Distribution: "Top end" of Northern Territory, Australia.

- *Varanus primordius* MERTENS, 1942

1942 *Varanus acanthurus primordius* MERTENS, Zool. Anz., Leipzig, 138: 41. - Type locality "North Australia".

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) acanthurus primordius* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 307.

1963 *Varanus acanthurus primordius* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 4.

1966 *Varanus primordius* - STORR, Copeia, 1966 (3): 583.

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

- *Varanus storri* MERTENS, 1966

1966 *Varanus storri* MERTENS, Senckenb. biol., Frankfurt am Main, 47: 437. - Type locality: Charters Towers, Queensland, Australia.

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

- - *Varanus storri storri* MERTENS, 1966

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

1997 *Varanus (Odatria) storri storri* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus storri storri* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xv.

Distribution: Vicinity of Charters Towers, Queensland, Australia.

- - *Varanus storri ochreatus* STORR, 1980

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

1997 *Varanus storri ochreatus* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus storri ochreatus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xv.

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

Varanus brevicauda BOULENGER, 1898

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., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 317.

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

1997 *Varanus brevicauda* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 175; 466:315.

1963 *Varanus caudolineatus* (Subgenus *Odatia*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 6.
1997 *Varanus caudolineatus* -BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., p. xiv.

Distribution: Coast and interior of central Western Australia.

Varanus eremius LUCAS & FROST, 1895

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

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) eremius* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main,
465: 173; 466: 312.

1963 *Varanus eremius* (Subgenus *Odatia*) - MERTENS, Das

Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 7.

1997 *Varanus eremius* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p.
xiv.

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

Varanus gilleni LUCAS & FROST, 1895

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

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) gilleni* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main,
465: 175; 466: 312.

1963 *Varanus gilleni* (Subgenus *Odatia*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 9.

1997 *Varanus gilleni* BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xiv.

Distribution: Desert areas of South Australia and the Northern Territory through the interior of
Western Australia to the north-west coast.

Varanus glauerti MERTENS, 1957

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

1958 *Varanus (Odatia) glauerti* - MERTENS, Senckenb. biol. Frankfurt am Main, 39; 236.

1963 *Varanus glauerti* (Subgenus *Odatia*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 9.

1997 *Varanus glauerti* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p.
xiv.

Distribution: Known only from Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Varanus glebopalma MITCHELL, 1955

1955 *Varanus glebopalma* MITCHELL, Rec. South Aust. Mus., Adelaide, 11: 389. - Type locality:

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

1997 *Varanus glebopalma* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xiv.

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

Varanus kingorum STORR, 1980

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

1997 *Varanus (Odatria) kingorum* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus kingorum* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., Frankfurt am Main, 39: 256.

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

1988 *Varanus (Odatria) mitchelli* - BÖHME, Nonn. zool. Monogr., 27: 139.

1997 *Varanus mitchelli* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xiv.

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

Varanus pilbarensis STORR, 1980

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

1997 *Varanus (Odatria) pilbarensis* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus pilbarensis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Frankfurt am Main, p. xiv.

Checkl.,

Distribution: Pilbara region, Western Australia.

Varanus semiremex PETERS, 1869

1869 *Varanus (Odatia) semiremex* PETERS, Mber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, 1869: 65. - Type locality: Cape York, Queensland, Australia.

1923 *Varanus boulengeri* KINGHORN, Rec. Aust. Mus., Sydney, 14: 135. - Type locality: Coquet island, Howick archipelago, Queensland, Australia.

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) semiremex* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 288.

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) semiremex semiremex* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 290.

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) semiremex boulengeri* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 166; 466: 289.

1963 *Varanus semiremex* (Subgenus *Odatia*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 18.

1997 *Varanus semiremex* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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 (Odatia) timorensis* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 298.

1942 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis timorensis* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 170; 466: 298.

1963 *Varanus timorensis timorensis* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 19.

1997 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, 8: 14.

1997 *Varanus timorensis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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, Frankfurt am Main, 23: 266.

- Type locality: Mission Beagle Bay, Dampier Land, NW Australia.

1942 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis scalaris* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 303.

1963 *Varanus timorensis scalaris* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 19.

1997 *Varanus (Odatria) scalaris* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 14

1997 *Varanus scalaris* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr., Frankfurt am Main, p. xv.

Distribution: Northwestern Australia.

- *Varanus similis* MERTENS, 1958

1958 *Varanus (Odatria) timorensis similis* MERTENS, Senckenb. biol., Frankfurt am Main, 39: 239. - Type locality: Groote Eylandt, Carpentaria Bay, Northern Territory, Australia.

1963 *Varanus timorensis similis* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 19.

1982 *Varanus similis* - BRANCH, J. Herpetol., 16: 37.

1997 *Varanus similis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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.: p. 72. - Type locality: Swan River, Western Australia.

1958 *Varanus tristis* - MERTENS, Senckenb. biol., Frankfurt am Main, 39: 242.

1963 *Varanus tristis* (Subgenus *Odatia*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 19.

1997 *Varanus tristis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xvi.

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

- - *Varanus tristis tristis* (SCHLEGEL, 1838) 1839 n. Tierr.!

1838 *Odatia punctata* GRAY, (not *Varanus punctatus* MERREM, 1820 = *Varanus b. bemgalensis* (DAUDIN, 1802)) Ann. nat. Hist., London, 1: 394. - Type locality: Sharks Bay, Western Australia.

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) timorensis tristis* - MERTENS - Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 172; 466: 304.

1958 *Varanus (Odatia) tristis tristis* - MERTENS, Senckenb. biol., Frankfurt am Main, 39: 244.

1963 *Varanus tristis tristis* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 20.

1997 *Varanus tristis tristis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xvi.

Distribution: Western and central Australia.

- - *Varanus tristis orientalis* FRY, 1913

1913 *Varanus punctatus* var. *orientalis* FRY, Rec. Aust. Mus., Sydney, 10: 18. - Type locality: Eidsvold, upper Burnett River, Queensland, Australia.

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) timorensis orientalis* - MERTENS (in part), Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 301.

1942 *Varanus (Odatia) timorensis tristis* - MERTENS (in part), Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 304.

1963 *Varanus tristis orientalis* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 20.

1997 *Varanus tristis orientalis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xvi.

Distribution: northern and northeastern Australia.

Subgenus *Papusaurus* MERTENS, 1962

1962 *Papusaurus* MERTENS, Senckenb. biol. Frankfurt am Main, 43: 331. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus salvadorii* (PETERS & DORIA, 1878).

Varanus salvadorii (PETERS & DORIA, 1878)

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., London, 2: 314.

1942 *Varanus* (*Varanus*) *salvadorii* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 164; 466: 286.

1962 *Varanus* (*Papusaurus*) *salvadorii* - MERTENS, Senckenb. biol., Frankfurt am Main, 43 (5): 332.

1963 *Varanus salvadorii* (Subgenus *Papusaurus*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 15.

1997 *Varanus salvadorii* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xvi.

Distribution: New Guinea.

Philippinosaurus MERTENS, 1959

1959 *Philippinosaurus* MERTENS, Senckenb. biol. Frankfurt am Main, 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, München, 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., London, 2: 312 (new name for *Uaranus ornatus* GRAY, 1845). - Type locality: Philippines (Synonym according to AUFFENBERG 1988).
- 1942 *Varanus grayi* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 199; 466: 369.
- 1959 *Varanus (Philippinosaurus) grayi* - MERTENS, Senckenb. biol., Frankfurt am Main, 40: 229.
- 1963 *Varanus grayi* (Subgenus *Philippinosaurus*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 10.
- 1988 *Varanus olivaceus* - AUFFENBERG, GRAY'S Monit. Liz., p. 2.
- 1997 *Varanus (Philippinosaurus) olivaceus* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 15.
- 1997 *Varanus olivaceus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xvii.

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

Subgenus *Polydaedalus* WAGLER, 1830

- 1830 *Polydaedalus* WAGLER, Natürl. Syst. Amphib., pp. 132, 164. -Type species (FITZINGER 1843): *Varanus niloticus* (LINNAEUS, 1766).
- 1843 *Pachysaurus* FITZINGER, Syst. Reptz., 1: 20. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus albigularis* (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., London, p. 8. - Type species (by original designation): *Varanus albigularis* (DAUDIN, 1802).

Species group *Varanus exanthematicus*

- *Varanus exanthematicus* (BOSC, 1792)

1792 *Lacerta exanthematica* BOSC, Acta Soc. hist. Nat., Paris, 1: 25. - Type locality: "ad fluvium Senegal" = Senegal River.

1820 *Varanus exanthematicus* - MERREM, Tent. Syst. Amphib., Marburg an der Lahn, p. 60.

- 1830 *Varanus ocellatus* HEYDEN in RÜPPELL, Atlas Reise nördl. Afr., Rept., p. 21. - Type locality: Kordofan.
- 1919 *Varanus exanthematicus exanthematicus* - K.P. SCHMIDT, Bull. Amer. Mus. nat. Hist., New York, 39: 480.
- 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) exanthematicus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 349.
- 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) exanthematicus exanthematicus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 189; 466: 352
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus* (Subgenus *Empagusia*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin. 79: 7.
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus exanthematicus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 7.
- 1997 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) exanthematicus* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 15.
- 1997 *Varanus exanthematicus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., Paris, 3: 72. - Type locality: unknown.
- 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) exanthematicus albigularis* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 193; 466: 357.
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus albigularis* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 7.
- 1989 *Varanus albigularis* - BÖHME, JOGER & SCHÄTTI, Fauna Saudia Arabia, Riyadh, 10: 434.
- 1991 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) albigularis* - BÖHME, Mertensiella, Bonn, 2: 44.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xvii.

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

- - *Varanus albigularis albigularis* (DAUDIN, 1802)

- 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. New York, 39: 483.
- 1942 *Varanus exanthematicus albigularis* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 193; 466: 357.
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus albigularis* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 7.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis albigularis* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 15.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis albigularis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., Pittsburgh, 22: 10. - Type locality: Gauca, Biha, Angola.
- 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) exanthematicus angolensis* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465:195; 466: 359.
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus angolensis* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 8.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis angolensis* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 15.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis angolensis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xvii.

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

- - *Varanus albigularis microstictus* BOETTGER, 1893

- 1893 *Varanus microstictus* BOETTGER, Kat. Rept.-Samml. Mus. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, I: viii. - Type locality: "Abessinien" (= Ethiopia).
- 1942 *Varanus (Empagusia) exanthematicus microstictus* MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 192; 466: 355.
- 1963 *Varanus exanthematicus microstictus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 8.
- 1991 *Varanus albigularis microstictus* - BÖHME, JOGER & SCHÄTTI, Fauna Saudia Arabia, Riyadh, 10: 441.
- 1997 *Varanus albigularis microstictus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xviii.

Distribution: From Ethiopia and Somalia southwards to Tanzania.

- *Varanus yemenensis* BÖHME, JOGER & SCHÄTTI, 1989

1989 *Varanus yemenensis* BÖHME, JOGER & SCHÄTTI, Fauna of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, 10: 434.

1997 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) yemenensis* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 15.

1997 *Varanus yemenensis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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)

1766 *Lacerta nilotica* LINNAEUS, Syst. Nat., Ed. 12, (1) I: 369. - Type locality: Egypt.

1768 *Stellio saurus* LAURENTI, Synops. rept., p. 56. - Type locality: "In Zeylania ad littora maris".

1783 *Lacerta capensis* SPARRMAN, Resa till Goda Hoppsudden, p. 749. - Type locality: Hinterbruyntjes Cave, Cape.

1788 *Lacertus tupinambis* LACÉPÈDE (in part), Hist. nat. Quadrup. ovip., 1 (Synops. method.), p. 251. - Type locality Cape of Good Hope and Senegal.

1802 *Tupinambis elegans* DAUDIN (in part), Hist. nat. Rept., Paris, 3: 59. - Type locality: "Suriname".

1802 *Tupinambis stellatus* DAUDIN (in part), Hist. nat. Rept., Paris, 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, p. 493. - Type locality Fantee, Gold Coast (= Ghana).

1826 *Varanus niloticus* - FITZINGER, Neue Classif. Rept., Wien, p. 50.

1844 *Monitor elegans senegalensis* SCHLEGEL, Abb. Amphib., p. x. - Type locality: Senegal.

1942 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) niloticus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Gesd., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 318.

1942 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) niloticus niloticus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 177; 466: 320.

1963 *Varanus niloticus* (Subgenus *Polydaedalus*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 13.

1963 *Varanus niloticus niloticus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 14.

1997 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) niloticus* - BÖHME & ZIEGLER, Herpetol. J., London, 7: 161.

1997 *Varanus niloticus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., Paris, 8: 353. - Type locality: Malimbe, Cameroon.

1942 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) niloticus ornatus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 177; 466: 327.

1963 *Varanus niloticus ornatus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 14.

1997 *Varanus (Polydaedalus) ornatus* - BÖHME & ZIEGLER, Herpetol. J., London, 7: 161.

1997 *Varanus ornatus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xviii.

Distribution: West and central African rain forest.

Subgenus *Psammosaurus* FITZINGER, 1826

1826 *Psammosaurus* FITZINGER, Neue Classif. Rept., Wien, p. 21, 50. - Type species (by monotypy): *Varanus griseus* (DAUDIN, 1803).

Varanus griseus (DAUDIN, 1803)

1803 *Tupinambis griseus* DAUDIN, Hist. nat. Rept., Paris, 8: 352. - Type locality: Egypt.

1885 *Varanus griseus* - BOULENGER, Ca. Liz. Brit. Mus., London, 2: 306.

1942 *Varanus (Psammosaurus) griseus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 184; 466: 338.

1963 *Varanus griseus* (Subgenus *Psammosaurus*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 10.

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

- *Varanus griseus griseus* (DAUDIN, 1803)

- 1820 *Varanus scincus* MERREM, Tent. syst. Amphib., Marvburg an der Lahn, p. 59. - Type locality: Egypt.
- 1827 *Tupinambis arenarius* G. GEOFFROY, Déscr. Égypte, Paris, Hist. nat. 1: 123. - Type locality: Egypt.
- 1834 *Varanus terrestris* SCHINZ, Naturgesch. Abb. Rept., p. 94. - Type locality (restricted by MERTENS 1942): Cairo, Egypt.
- 1899 *Psammosaurus arabicus* HEMPRICH & EHRENBERG, Symbol. phys. zool. Amphib., p. 3. - Type locality: Arabia.
- 1942 *Varanus (Psammosaurus) griseus* (in part) - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 338.
- 1954 *Varanus (Psammosaurus) griseus griseus* - MERTENS, Senckenb. biol., Frankfurt am Main, 35: 354.
- 1963 *Varanus griseus griseus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 11.
- 1997 *Varanus griseus griseus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr., rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 338.
- 1954 *Varanus (Psammosaurus) griseus caspius* - MERTENS, Senckenb. biol., Frankfurt am Main, 35: 355.
- 1963 *Varanus griseus caspius* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 11.
- 1997 *Varanus griseus caspius* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., p. xix.

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

- *Varanus griseus konieczyi* MERTENS, 1954

- 1954 *Varanus (Psammosaurus) konieczyi* MERTENS, Senckenb. biol., Frankfurt am Main, 35: 355. - Type locality: Korangee near Karachi, Pakistan.
- 1963 *Varanus griseus konieczyi* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, 79: 11.

1997 *Varanus griseus koniecznyi* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xix.

Distribution: Southern Pakistan and northwestern India.

Subgenus *Soterosaurus* ZIEGLER & BÖHME, 1997

1830 *Hydrosaurus* WAGLER, Natürl. Syst. Amphib., p. 132, 140. - Type species (FITZINGER 1843): *Varanus salvator bivittatus* (KUHL, 1820) (not *Hydrosaurus* KAUP, 1828: Agamidae)

1997 *Soterosaurus* ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 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., p. 56. - Type locality (designated by MERTENS 1959): Ceylon (= Sri Lanka).

1847 *Varanus salvator* - CANTOR, J. asiat. Soc. Bengal, Calcutta, 16: 635.

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 244.

1963 *Varanus salvator* (Subgenus *Varanus*) - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 16.

1997 *Varanus (Soterosaurus) salvator* - ZIEGLER & BÖHME, Mertensiella, Rheinbach, 8: 177.

1997 *Varanus salvator* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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)

1802 *Tupinambis elegans* DAUDIN (in part), Hist. nat. Rept., Paris, 3: 36. - Type locality: "Surinam".

1831 *Monitor exilis* GRAY in GRIFFITH, Anim. Kingd., 9 Synops.: p. 25. - Type locality: "India".

- 1834 *Varanus vittatus* LESSON in BÉLANGER, Voyage Ind. orient., Zool., p. 307. - Type locality: Islands at the mouth of the Ganges River.
- 1844 *Monitor bivittatus* var. *celebensis* SCHLEGEL, Abb. Amphib., p. x. - Type locality: Celebes (= Sulawesi).
- 1937 *Varanus salvator salvator* - MERTENS, Senckenbergiana, Frankfurt am Main, 19: 178.
- 1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator salvator* - MERTENS (in part), Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 149; 466: 245.
- 1944 *Varanus salvator macromaculatus* DERANIYAGALA, Spol. zeylan., Colombo, 24: 60-62. - Type locality: "Siam" (= Thailand).
- 1947 *Varanus salvator kabaragoya* DERANIYAGALA, Proc. 3rd ann. Sess. Ceylon Assoc. Sci., Colombo, 2 (Absr.): 12. - Type locality: "Ceylon" (= Sri Lanka).
- 1947 *Varanus salvator nicobariensis* DERANIYAGALA, Proc. 3rd ann. Sess. Ceylon Assoc. Sci., Colombo, 2 (Abstr.): 12. - Type locality: Nicobar islands.
- 1963 *Varanus salvator salvator* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 16.
- 1997 *Varanus salvator salvator* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checklist, Frankfurt am Main, p. xix.

Distribution: The entire range of the species with the exception 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., Colombo, 24: 60-61. - Type locality: Port Blair, Andaman Islands.
- 1963 *Varanus salvator andamanensis* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 17.
- 1997 *Varanus salvator andamanensis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., p. xx.

Distribution: Andaman Islands.

- *Varanus salvator bivittatus* (KUHL, 1820)

- 1820 *Tupinambis bivittatus* KUHL, Beitr. Zool., p. 125. - Type locality (designated by MERTENS 1959): Java.
- 1829 *Monitor nigricans* CUVIER, Règne Anim., Paris, (Éd. 2) 2: 27. - Type locality: Java.
- 1844 *Monitor bivittatus* var. *javanica* SCHLEGEL, Abb., Amphib., p. 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., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 149; 466: 245.

1959 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator bivittatus* - MERTENS, Senckenb. biol., Frankfurt am Main, 40: 237.

1963 *Varanus salvator bivittatus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 17.

1997 *Varanus salvator bivittatus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., 1838: 69. - Type locality: Mindanao, Philippines.

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator cumingi* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 154; 466: 256.

1963 *Varanus salvator cumingi* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 17.

1997 *Varanus salvator cumingi* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. xx.

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

- *Varanus salvator komaini* NUTPHAND, 1987

1987 *Varanus salvator komaini* NUTPHAND, J. Thai Zool. Center, 2 (15): 51. - Type locality: Amphoe La-ngu, Satun Prov., Thailand, and Thai-Malaysian bodeer area (according to LAUPRASERT & THIRAKUPT, 2001).

2001 *Varanus salvator komaini* - LAUPRASERT & THIRAKUPT, Nat. Hist. J. Chulalongkorn Univ., 1 (1): 39, 40.

- *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., p. x. - Type locality: Manila, Luzon, Philippines.

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator marmoratus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 465: 154; 466: 254.

1944 *Varanus salvator philippinensis* DERANIYAGALA, Spol. zeylan., Colombo, 24: 61. - Type locality: Luzon, Philippines.

1963 *Varanus salvator marmoratus* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 17.

1997 *Varanus salvator marmoratus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 258.

1963 *Varanus salvator nuchalis* - MERTENS, Das Tierreich, Berlin, 79: 18.

1997 *Varanus salvator nuchalis* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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, Frankfurt am Main, 23: 272.

1942 *Varanus (Varanus) salvator togianus* - MERTENS, Abh. senckenb. naturf. Ges., Frankfurt am Main, 466: 253.

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

1997 *Varanus salvator togianus* - BÖHME, Aktual. 1942-er Monogr. rev. Checkl., Frankfurt am Main, p. 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.

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