

BIAWAK

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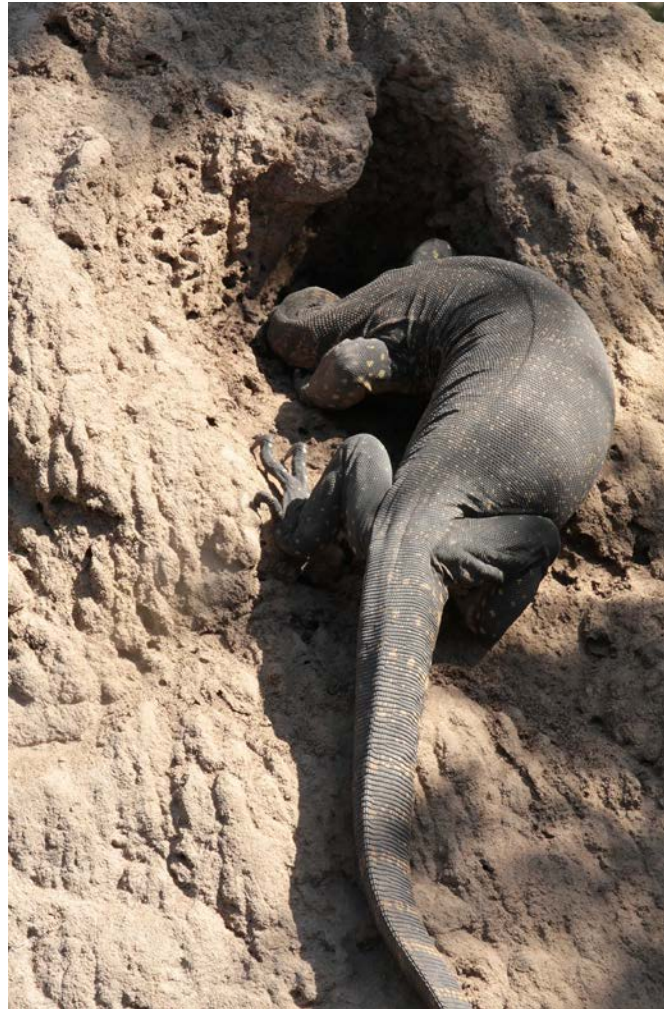


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On the Cover:

Varanus rosenbergi

The heath monitor, *Varanus rosenbergi* depicted on the cover and inset of this issue was photographed by **David Kirshner**. In March 2012, a female *V. rosenbergi* was observed digging potential nest holes into a termite mound (*Nasutitermes exitiosus*) in a park near Sydney, NSW, Australia. The female worked on two separate holes on either side of the same mound, pausing frequently to look around for predators or to bask. David returned to the mound on subsequent days and watched the female continue to work on the holes, although she was interrupted by a few days of rain. On one visit to the area the same female was observed basking on a nearby rock, where the lack of fat reserves in her tail was clearly visible, indicating that she was very close to laying. However, egg laying was not observed and it is believed she was probably disturbed by hikers on a sunny weekend when the park was particularly busy.





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

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Varanus niloticus. Kruger NP, South Africa. Photographed by **Kim Paffen**.