
EDITOR'S NOTE

We would like to thank the numerous individuals who have responded with their thoughts and concerns over the controversial issues discussed in the *Editor's Note* of last issue concerning the potential regulation of private varanid keeping by local and national governments. From the responses we have received thus far, it seems as though there is a great disparity between hobbyists in favor of government-regulated permit systems for the legal and responsible keeping of varanids, and those against such systems. For those who are against a permit system, are there any alternatives which may help remedy the many shortcomings of the current hobby?

We would like to encourage our readers to continue to send in their thoughts and comments on this matter so that the IVIG can gain a broader understanding of how private hobbyists stand on the various factors which may affect the future of varanid keeping. Please send all comments and concerns via email to submissions@varanidae.org

Additional Varanid Literature Resources Offered by the IVIG

Perhaps one of the biggest problems limiting scientific literacy in society today is the large gap which exists between scientific research, discovery and publication, and the information available to the general public outside of science or academia. Scientific journals, which are the typical venue where the results of new scientific research and discoveries are published, are not usually accessible to individuals who are not affiliated with universities or other academic institutions, thus preventing these individuals from furthering their own knowledge and understanding of a particular scientific discipline.

Bridging this gap and promoting scientific literacy among varanid enthusiasts is one of the IVIG's



Juvenile *Varanus bengalensis* in termite mound. Ettimadai, Tamil Nadu, India.

Photograph by Shivapratap Gopakumar shivapratap@gmail.com

most fundamental goals. Therefore, the IVIG has created several supplemental varanid literature resources in addition to the journal *Biawak*, which are available through the website, <http://varanidae.org>. These literature resources, which are free and accessible to all visitors, will assist researchers, hobbyists, and enthusiasts in accessing published literature on monitor lizards, and furthering their understanding of varanid biology and husbandry.

Online Research Articles- An annotated bibliography of varanid research articles currently available online with direct links allows viewers to access articles published on external websites. Due to the dynamic nature of the internet, this section is regularly updated.

Varanid Newsletter Facsimiles- Complete issues of the out of print varanid newsletters *VaraNews*, *Dragon News*, *Varanids*, and the *Dutch Varanid Group Newsletter* are available for download. Articles cover a wide range of topics including, but not limited to the captive husbandry, veterinary medicine, and natural history of monitor lizards.

Bibliotheca Varanoidea- An online message board for the discussion of varanid literature allows participants to discuss new publications, critique information presented in varanid literature, as well as place requests for specific articles and papers amongst peers. Inquiries on scientific writing and documentation are also welcomed and encouraged.

Editorial Board Positions Available

In a coordinated effort to reach a broader global audience and to help advance the study of monitor lizards through publishing novel information and data, the IVIG is presently seeking several individuals from Europe and Australia to join the editorial board of *Biawak* as regional liaisons to assist with gathering article submissions from private varanid hobbyists, enthusiasts, and zoos from their respected regions, as well as to help promote *Biawak* on various online herpetological communities, fora, and message boards. For additional information on these positions, please contact the editor at odatriad@yahoo.com.



Cat and juvenile *Varanus niloticus*. Mombasa, Kenya.
Photograph by **Srinath Dasari**.
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