

# BIAWAK

Journal of Varanid Biology and Husbandry

## Instructions for Authors

### ***General Information***

*Biawak* is a peer-reviewed quarterly journal which publishes original articles and notes which pertain to the biology and captive husbandry of monitor lizards, as well as book reviews, historical accounts, veterinary reports, innovative techniques, bibliographies, commentaries, and digests of current varanid research. Papers are of a semi-technical to non-technical nature.

Academics, researchers, zoo personnel, students, private breeders, keepers, hobbyists and enthusiasts from all nations are encouraged to contribute. Papers which discuss biology or captive husbandry should focus exclusively on observations and results, rather than personal persuasions. Opinionated papers should instead be submitted as either commentary or letters to the editor. Assistance with manuscript preparation is available upon request.

All contributing authors must attest that manuscripts and material submitted to *Biawak* are original and have not been published or submitted elsewhere. Submission of a paper to *Biawak* implies that the authors concede to the open-access distribution of the manuscript, including all content contained therein.

### ***Submission Categories***

#### **Full Length Articles**

Full length articles are typically greater than 500 words, but have no limits on length. Photographs, line drawings, and tables are encouraged as long as they compliment the article.

***Full Length Natural History Articles-*** A broad range of topics which pertain to varanid biology and natural history are accepted, including, but not limited to habitat preference, behavior, reproduction, diet, predation, and activity.

***Full Length Captive Husbandry Articles-*** A broad range of topics which pertain to the captive husbandry of monitor lizards are accepted. Acceptable topics may include, but are not limited to captive reproduction, maintenance, behavior, diet, activity, acclimation, and incubation.

***Full Length Review Articles-*** Review articles may cover a variety of topics which pertain to wild or captive monitor lizards. Articles must use previously published works to support the discussion of a particular subject or topic.

#### **Shorter Communications**

Brief accounts typically report on single observations or occurrences. They may be as brief as a single paragraph, as long as they accurately and descriptively describe the nature of the observation.

***Natural History Notes-*** A broad range of topics which pertain to wild monitor lizards are accepted. Examples may include, but are not limited to behavior, reproduction, diet, predation, and aggression. Details such as date, time of day, location, habitat type, sex, and size of the animal/s observed are important and should be noted when possible.

**Geographic Distribution Notes-** Reports which document the geographical occurrence of *Varanus* species are accepted, and need not be range extensions of currently recognized distributions. All geographical accounts must report precise locality data, and latitudinal and longitudinal coordinates when possible. Notes should include the date, time of day, a description of the habitat, and a description of the animal/s behavior at the time of observation.

**Captive Husbandry Notes-** A broad range of topics which pertain to the captive husbandry of monitor lizards are accepted. Examples may include, but are not limited to behavior, diet, reproduction, and aggression. A brief description of the husbandry and conditions offered may be necessary to accurately describe the nature of the observation.

## **Additional Topics**

**Book Reviews-** Reviews of *Varanus*-related books are accepted. Reviews should critique and evaluate the book on many different aspects, including scientific merit, organization, and presentation.

**Historical Accounts-** Articles which report on the history of *Varanus* maintained in zoological institutions, or the contributions to varanid biology or husbandry made by single individuals are accepted. Additional historical subjects may also be accepted.

**Veterinary Reports-** A broad range of topics pertaining to varanid veterinary medicine and surgery are accepted. Topics may include, but are not limited to diagnoses, treatments, preventative medicine, innovative veterinary techniques, and necropsies.

**Techniques-** Articles which describe new and innovative techniques in the fields of captive husbandry and field research are accepted. Articles should elaborate on the reason for development of the technique, a detailed description of the technique, and a discussion of the results received from utilizing the new technique. Diagrams and photographs which compliment the text are encouraged.

**Bibliographies-** Compiled varanid bibliographies are accepted. Due to the volume of varanid literature, bibliographies must be limited to a particular topic (e.g. Reproduction), species complex (e.g. *Varanus indicus* complex), or species in their scope of coverage.

**Commentaries/Letters to the Editor-** Opinionated letters from readers are accepted. Letters may be formal or informal, and may discuss any topic, issue, or controversy pertaining to the study of wild or captive monitor lizards. Letters may be heavily opinionated, and are thus not to be presented as fact.

**Current Research/Recent Publications-** Researchers are encouraged to submit abstracts of current research or recently published works. Recent publications may include books, journal articles, magazine articles, and newsletter/bulletin articles.

**Requests for Research Assistance-** Varanid researchers are encouraged to place requests for research assistance. Requests may include, but are not limited to funding, volunteers, research technicians, specimens, tissue samples, literature, and travel/lodging accommodations.

## **Style and Format**

All submissions are to be in English, using U.S. spelling and grammar conventions. If English is not the primary language, assistance in preparing the manuscript is available. Manuscripts are accepted electronically (Microsoft Word [.doc] or Rich Text Format [.rtf] files) as email attachments. If contributors are unable to submit papers electronically, hard copies may be submitted instead. The entire manuscript should be double

spaced, including all tables, figures, and literature cited. Abstracts of manuscripts are not published in *Biawak* and therefore should not be submitted.

### **Figures**

- Photographs, images, diagrams, tables and line drawings are encouraged, and accepted as .jpg or .gif files. Physical copies are also accepted if electronic submission is not possible.
- Standard photographic submissions should not be less than 1600 x 1200 pixels (2 megapixels), and submissions for cover photos should exceed 2500 x 3200 pixels (8.5 megapixels).
- Tables are to be submitted as editable Word or Excel files, not as pictures
- Each table should be submitted on a separate page and be double spaced throughout

### **Units of Measurement** \*All measurements should follow the International System of Units (SI)

- Time: 0900 h and 24 h; 15 min; 45 s
- Temperature: 28 °C
- Length/Distance: 2.2 cm; 3 m; 18 km
- Mass: 3.2 g; 5.1 kg

### **Format**

- Articles and notes should be written in the third person narrative when possible. e.g.,

*“Four adult males were captured...”*

Instead of:

*“I captured four adult males...”*

- A period should be followed by a single space
- Do not boldface any portion of the text
- Use italics for Latin names, addresses on title page, and subheadings only. Do not italicize any other words.
- Do not use professional titles for individuals mentioned in the text or acknowledgements.
- Products mentioned within the text should also cite the manufacturer and their location within parentheses. e.g.,

*“..... A Pro-Mist misting system (Pro Products: Mahopac, New York, USA) was used to achieve adequate humidity levels and...”*

### **Citation of Literature**

- Ensure that spelling, dates, and sources are correct.
- In the text, references are cited with surnames.
  - o Reference with one author: (Pianka, 1969)
  - o Reference with two authors: (Wicker and Eidenmueller, 1995)
  - o Reference with multiple authors: (Enge et al., 2004)
- Organize references chronologically within a series, separated by a semi-colon. e.g., (Pianka, 1969; Bayless, 2002; Ibrahim, 2002)
- Literature Cited is to be arranged alphabetically.
- Examples of proper literature citation formats:

***For an article appearing in a journal or serial publication:***

Gaulke, M., V.A. Altenbach, A. Demegillo and U. Struck. 2005. On the distribution and biology of *Varanus mabitang*. Silliman Journal. 46: 89-117.

***For a book:***

Auffenberg, W. 1988. Gray's Monitor Lizard. University Presses of Florida. Gainesville, Florida.

***For a chapter within a book:***

Sweet, S.S. 2004. *Varanus glauerti*. In E.R. Pianka and D.R. King, Varanoid Lizards of the World, pp. 366-372. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana.

***For an article found on a website:***

Bohme, W. 2003. Checklist Of The Living Monitor Lizards Of The World (Family Varanidae): <http://www.cites.org/common/cop/12/ESF12i-06A.pdf>. Checklist of CITES Species Compiled by UNEP-WCMC, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Last accessed 31.01.06)

For further information regarding proper citation of references, and acceptable reference material, please consult the editor.

***Full-Length Articles***

Full-length articles published in *Biawak* report on varanid biology or captive husbandry, and should include a title, the author's name, the author's address and/or email address, the text, acknowledgements, literature cited, and appendices (if applicable).

- ***Title-*** this should briefly summarize the scope of the article. The title should be centered at the top of the page s. e.g.,

Notes on the Biology of *Varanus semiremex*

- ***Author's Name and Address-*** The author's name should be centered below the title and should include all capital letters. The author's address is centered beneath the author's name and should be italicized. The email address is centered beneath the address. e.g.,

AUTHOR'S NAME  
*Author's address*  
Author's email address

- ***Text-*** Full-length manuscripts should include subheadings, and may include: introduction, materials and methods, results, and discussion.
- ***Acknowledgements-*** Individuals which assisted in the study or preparation of the manuscript are acknowledged here. e.g.,

*"I thank \_\_\_ for their assistance in the field; \_\_\_ for providing access to specimens and \_\_\_ for review of this manuscript..."*

- **Literature Cited-** All references mentioned in the text must be listed in the Literature Cited.
- **Appendices-** All charts, tables, and graphs are placed in the appendices after the Literature Cited.

### **Shorter Communications**

For brief accounts, important details to note may include location, date, time of day, habitat type, sex, size and age of the animal(s) observed, and a description of the behavior or occurrence observed. For captive husbandry notes, important details to note may include the origin of the animal(s), duration in captivity, date, time of day, sex, size and age of the animal(s) observed, and a description of the behavior or occurrence observed. Brief natural notes should include a title, text, literature cited, the author's name and the author's address and/or email address.

- **Title-** The title in this section should include the scientific name (in capitalized italics), common name (in parentheses), and a keyword or phrase which best describes the location or nature of the account (all capital letters). e.g.,

*VARANUS VARIUS* (Lace Monitor). CAPTIVE NESTING BEHAVIOR

- **Text-** No subheadings are required for shorter accounts. Content should report on specific observations and findings. When observing behaviors, human interference should be avoided or kept to a minimum.
- **Literature Cited-** All references mentioned in the text must be listed in the Literature Cited.
- **Author's Name and Address-** The author's name (capitalized letters) should be centered below the Literature Cited. The author's address is centered beneath the author's name and should be italicized. The email address is centered beneath the address.

### **Book Reviews**

Submissions should include the title of the book, the author's name, the author's address, the date of publication, number of pages, publisher, city of publication, the text, the reviewer's name and the reviewer's address. e.g.,

Varanoid Lizards of the World  
 Eric R. Pianka and Dennis R. King  
 1995. 588 pp.  
 Indiana University Press. Bloomington, Indiana.

Text of review

Reviewed by: REVIEWER'S NAME  
*Reviewer's address*  
 Reviewer's email address

### **Techniques**

Diagrams or photographs which compliment the text are encouraged. Submissions are to include a brief title which summarizes the technique being described, the author's name (all in capital letters) and address (italicized), followed by a description of the technique or procedure. e.g.,

A Technique for Acclimating Varanids in Captivity

AUTHOR'S NAME

*Author's Address*

Author's email address

Text of article

Literature Cited (*if applicable*)

***Additional Information***

For additional information regarding format, content, submissions, or authoring guidelines, please consult back issues of *Biawak* for reference, or contact the editor.