



On the type selection and re-typification of two monitor lizard taxa (Squamata: Varanidae): *Monitor bivittatus celebensis* Schlegel, 1844 and *Monitor kordensis* Meyer, 1874; with some comments and corrections on other name-bearing type specimens

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Abstract

We comment on a recently published checklist of the extant monitor lizards (Varanidae) by De Lisle (2009) which aimed also to give the repositories and catalogue numbers of name-bearing type specimens. In two out of 28 cases (i.e., *Monitor bivittatus celebensis* Schlegel, 1844 and *Monitor kordensis* Meyer, 1874) where the onomatophores could not be traced, he decided to designate a lectotype and a neotype, respectively, which, however, was not in accordance with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN). Therefore, we regard these designations as invalid and discuss and clarify the status of further type material listed by De Lisle (2009). Moreover, we make some additional corrections in his list.

Key words: Onomatophores, lectotype and neotype designations; *Monitor chlorostigma* Gray, 1831; *Monitor marmoratus* Cuvier, 1829; *Monitor nigricans* Cuvier, 1829.

Recently, De Lisle (2009) published a new checklist of extant varanid lizards with the aim to improve earlier lists (e.g. Mertens 1942, 1963; Böhme 1997, 2003) - apart from adding the new taxa described in the meantime - by giving the repositories and the respective catalogue numbers of name-bearing type specimens regardless whether he considered them valid or synonymous. In the course of this work, De Lisle (2009) correctly recognized that name-bearing specimens could not be traced for all taxa. These are (according to his list and in the order used there; for acronyms, see his paper as well):

- *Varanus gillii* Smith, 1831: types “not preserved“, i.e., lost;
- *Lacerta argus* Daudin, 1802: MNHN, lost;
- *Varanus punctatus* Merrem, 1820: not designated;
- *Varanus taraguira* Merrem, 1820: not designated;
- *Monitor gemmatus* Guérin-Melville, 1820: MNHN, no specimen recognized;
- *Monitor heraldicus* Gray, 1831: MNHN, lost;
- *Monitor inornatus* Schlegel, 1839: RMNH, lost;
- *Varanus bibronii* Blyth, 1842: ZSIC, lost;
- *Monitor kalabeck* Lesson, in Duperrey, 1830: “no type”;
- *Lacerta exanthematica* Bosc, 1792: MNHN, lost;
- *Monitor flavescens* Hardwicke & Gray, 1827: "(Holotype) iconotype", i.e., specimen lost;
- *Tupinambis griseus* Daudin, 1803: MNHN, lost;
- *Varanus scincus* Merrem, 1820: not designated;
- *Tupinambus arenarius* Geoffroy, 1827: "not found" (i.e., lost);
- *Varanus terrestris* Schinz, 1834: ZMZ, "not found" (i.e. lost);
- *Psammosaurus arabicus* Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1899: ZMB, lost;
- *Psammosaurus caspius* Eichwald, 1831: EMKSU, "not located";