

The Local Names of Pacific Monitor Lizards (Sauria: Varanidae) of Oceania & Indo-Malaysia, excluding Australia

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Monitor Lizards (*Varanus* spp.) of the Pacific have been co-existing with native Polynesians, Papuan tribes of New Guinea, Malayans of Malacca and Lesser Sunda Straits, Polynesians and Micronesians of the Caroline, Marshall, and Solomon Islands for 15 millenia. This paper presents a list of the local names applied to the numerous *Varanus* species that range from the Islands of Tiomon of Peninsula Malaysia, south to the Lesser Sunda Straits Isles, to the most eastern islands of the Solomons, to the northern Moluccas, Raja Amphat and north into the Philippine Islands.

The 97 local names listed here may help zoologists, herpetologists, ethnologists and even tourist guides and travel naturalists identify Monitor Lizards throughout Oceania Pacific, of China, Banda, Malacca (Malaya), Sula, Celebes, Ceram (Moluccas) and Sulu (Philippine) Seas.

Table 1. Monitor Lizards: Common Names Across the Pacific Ocean & Lesser Seas

Species	Local name	Island/ Province	Island Group	Reference
<i>Varanus</i> sp.				
	Iguana	Condore	Con Son Isl.	Kloss
	Minjawak		Sula Islands	Kopstein
	Konuf	Chuuk	Micronesia	Davis
	Galuf	Yap	Caroline Isl.	Christian
“Giant” [extinct?] <i>Varanus</i>				
	---	PNG	PNG	Mytinger
	---	Kofiau	Raja-Ampat	Mauro (p.c.)
	Baekwa i tolo	Malaita	Solomon Isl.	Ivens
	Cuscus	---	PNG	Bayless; Dalton
	Row	Papua	PNG	Miller
Bengal Monitor				
<i>V. bengalensis</i>				
	Biawak abu-abu		Malaysia	Auffenberg, 1994; **
Blue-tailed Monitor				
<i>V. doreanus</i>				
	Birumoipoko	Irian Jaya	Papua	Muller (p.c.)
Clouded Monitor				
<i>V. nebulosus</i>				
	Biawak abu-abu		Indonesia	**
	Biawak nyambak		Indonesia	**
	Biawak puru		Malaysia	Duckett
	Biawak titus		Malaysia	Duckett

Crocodile Monitor*V. salvadorii*

Artrellia		PNG	Bayless; Blashford-Snell; O'Shea; Shuker; Souter
Birmopuku	Irian Jaya	Papua	Muller (p.c.)
Crocodile monitor		PNG	Bayless
Giant Monitor		PNG	Petocz, 1989
Totoro	Irian Jaya	Papua	Muller (p.c.)
Wa'o	Irian Jaya	Papua	Muller (p.c.)
Wuo'o	Irian Jaya	Papua	Muller (p.c.)

Dumeril's Monitor*V. dumerilii*

Biawak Kudong		Malaysia	Duckett
Phut	Borneo	Indonesia	Smith

Earless Monitor*Lanthanotus borneensis*

B.* kalimantan	Borneo	Indonesia	**
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Emerald Monitor*V. prasinus prasinus*

Biawak hijau		Indonesia	**
Dudu		PNG	Schultze-Westrum

V. prasinus beccari

Waweyaro	Irian Jaya	Papua	Muller (p.c.)
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Gould's Monitor (PNG)*V. panoptes horni*

Biawak coklat (brown monitor)		PNG	Anon.; **
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Gray's Monitor*V. olivaceus*

Baneas	Luzon	Philippines	Auffenberg, 1988
Batua	Luzon	Philippines	Auffenberg, 1988
Butaan	Luzon	Philippines	Auffenberg, 1988

Mangrove Monitor*V. indicus*

Biawak bakau	Papua	PNG	Petocz, 1987
Biawak maluku		Indonesia	**
Chelub	Palau	Micronesia	Crombie (p.c.)
Galufs	Palau(Pelew)	Micronesia	Hartlaub/Finsch
Galufs	Palau (Uap)	Micronesia	Hartlaub/Finsch
Gawi	Kiriwina	PNG, E.	Heatwole
Gomakara	Trobriand	PNG	Fortune
Guntur-Kilat	Irian Jaya	Papua	Muller (p.c.)
Kaluf	Namoluk	Micronesia	Marshall
Konuf	Chuuck	Micronesia	Davis
Tetere	Irian Jaya	Papua	Muller (p.c.)
Weke	Irian Jaya	Papua	Muller (p.c.)

Komodo Monitor*V. komodoensis*

Biawak Raksasa	Komodo	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1981
Boeaja Darat	Komodo	Komodo Group	Heurn
Buaja Darat	Komodo	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1980
Hora	Komodo	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1981
Land Crocodile	Komodo	Komodo Group	Ciofi (p.c.)

	Lawora	Komodo	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1981
	Lio (= Biawak besar)	Flores	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1981
	Ora	Komodo	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1980
	Pendugu	Flores	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1981
	Rugu (= Ora)	Flores	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1981
	Si (= Malay: tjejak)	Flores	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1981
	Ugu	Flores	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1981
Panay's Monitor				
<i>V. mabitang</i>				
	Mabitang	Panay	Philippines	Gaulke & Curio
Peach-Throat Monitor				
<i>V. jobiensis</i>				
	Biawak Punggur	Borneo	Indonesia	Bennett
	Biawak Serunai		Malaysia	Harrison & Lim
Pin-Spot Monitor				
<i>V. auffenbergi</i>				
	Biawak roti	Roti	Timor	**
Rennell's Monitor				
<i>V. juxtindicus</i>				
	Hokai	Rennell	Solomons	Elbert; Wolff
	Hokai	Bellona	Solomons	Elbert; Kuschel
Rossel Islands' Monitor				
<i>V. telenestes</i>				
	Yaba	Rossel	PNG	Armstrong
	Kwalewe	Wuli	PNG	Armstrong
Seram Monitor				
<i>V. cerambonensis</i>				
	Biawak Seram	Seram	Moluccas	**
	bwo	Seram	Moluccas	Ellen et.al.
	bwo-inai (Mother)	Seram	Moluccas	Ellen et.al.
	bwo-Sipane(male)	Seram	Moluccas	Ellen et.al.
	Puo-inae (mother)	Seram	Moluccas	Ellen, 1993
	Puo-pipane (male)	Seram	Moluccas	Ellen, 1993
	Sua-Sua***	Ambon	Moluccas, S.	Visser/Koore; Ellen 93
Timor Monitor				
<i>V. timorensis</i>				
	Biawak timor		Timor	Petocz, 1987
<i>V. timorensis similis</i>				
	Oke	Irian Jaya	Papua	Muller (p.c.)
Turquoise Monitor				
<i>V. caerulivirens</i>				
	B.* halmahera	Halmahera	Indonesia	**
Water Monitor				
<i>V. salvator salvator</i>				
	Alu	Bali	Indonesia	Auffenberg, 1980, '81
	Banos (Ilocano)	Luzon	Philippines	Loveridge; Rabor
	Bayawak(tagalog)	Luzon	Philippines	Rabor; Williams
	Beyawh		Malaysia	Flower, 1896
	Biawak	Java	Indonesia	Sunier
	Biawak	Komodo	Indonesia	Auffenberg, 1980

Binjawak	Java	Indonesia	Hoogerwerf, 1970
Biawak		Malaysia	Duckett
Byawak	Java	Indonesia	Heurn
Ghora (or Hora)	Flores	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1981
Guibang (Manobo)	Luzon	Philippines	Loveridge; Rabor
Halo (visayan)	Cebu	Philippines	Loveridge; Rabor
Hee-air	Singapore	Malaysia	Flower, 1899
Iguana	Java	Indonesia	Heurn
Java Monitors	P'. Panaitan	Java	Hoogerwerf, 1953a
Java Monitors	Rakata	Krakatau Isles	Hoogerwerf, 1953b
Kabara-goya	Singapore	Indo-China	Gadow
Lagura	Savu	Indonesia	Auffenberg, 1981
Lawora	Sumba	Indonesia	Auffenberg, 1981
Minjawak	Java	Indonesia	Heurn; Koningsberger; Sunier
Minjawak	P'. Berhala	Sumatra	Mohr
Nggora	Roti	Timor Group	Auffenberg, 1981
Soa-Soa	Ambon	S. Moluccas	Visser & Koore
Two-banded	Krakatau	Krakatau Isles	Iwamoto
Uti	Sumbawa	Indonesia	Auffenberg, 1981
Weti	Flores	Komodo Group	Auffenberg, 1980, '81
White's monitor	—	—	Kirby et.al., 1906
Togian Water Monitor			
<i>V. salvator togianus</i>			
Biawak togian	Togian Isles	Sulawesi	**

* = Biawak (= Lizard); P' = Pulau (= Island); ** see last reference; *** also used to refer to frilled lizard (*Hydrosaurus ambonensis*)

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