



Varanus indicus

Ambon lizard, Flower lizard, Indian monitor lizard, mangrove monitor, Pacific monitor

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
 - “Feeds on domestic chickens and their eggs. Scavenges turtle nests, including endangered leatherback sea turtle. Can carry parasitic nematodes on their body” (Molnar 2008).
2. Invasive potential
 - V. indicus are excellent swimmers that are known to swim to islands off Guam.
3. Geographic extent
 - Regionally pervasive
4. Management difficulty
 - Trapped and poisoned to control populations in some areas, however successful eradications are unknown.



Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Palau Islands
2. Known to have been introduced to Japan from the Japanese in the Marshall Islands before WWII.
3. Marine, coastland, mangroves, natural forest, wetlands
4. “A tropical terrestrial-arboreal monitor lizard found in mangroves, forests, swamps, & rainforests. Most often found close to a water source. In some areas they spend most of their time in the water, resting or looking for food” (Molnar 2008).

Invasion Pathways

1. Biocontrol
 - Intentional known
 - Cause- bio control
 - Introduced to Kosrae for ant control
2. Pet, Aquarium, and Water Garden Trade - including organisms & facilities
 - Intentional known
 - Cause- pet trade
 - traded around the world
3. Natural Spread
 - Cause- excellent swimmers
 - Excellent swimmers and visit islands near Guam's shore
4. Other Animal Trade
 - Intentional known
 - Cause- meat and skin
 - Introduced to various areas for meat or skin

Non native locations

1. 123- Mariana Islands

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. "Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity." *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. <http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=1065&fr=1&sts=&lang=EN>
4. http://www.varanus.nl/overig/V_indicus2.jpg