
ARTICLES

Introductory Note - The following article, submitted by the late Mark K. Bayless (1960-2006) prior to his death, cites numerous obscure and antiquarian book references. Unfortunately, the exact page numbers of these books, from which information was gathered, could not be obtained. Additionally, no efforts were made to update the names of countries which have changed since the cited reference's publication.

Local Names of Pan-African Monitor Lizards (Varanidae: *Varanus*: *Polydaedalus*)

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African monitor lizards have a Pan-African distribution (Bayless, 2002). These lizards are known from generalized to specific habitats across Africa (Bayless, 1997). If studying zoology, herpetology, epidemiology, parasitology, or ethnography, it is helpful to know the local and regional names of these reptiles. To date, the most comprehensive listing of local names for *Varanus* has been written by Auerbach (1995:243-245). The following compilation includes the local names for each monitor lizard species listed by country, tribe, language, and source.

Acknowledgements - I thank Vivian de Buffrenil, and Hazel Chapman for clarifying and sharing some African *Varanus* names with me.

Table 1. Local names of *V. exanthematicus*.

Local Name	Country/Region	Tribe/Locale	Language	Reference
A-nak-a-nak	Kenya	Karamajong		Auerbach, 1995
A-nak-a-nak	Kenya	Tesa		Auerbach, 1995
Damo	Nigeria	Hausa		Bargery, 1934; Abraham, 1949; Dunger, 1967; Newman, 1990
Damu	Senegal			Roure, 1956
Eft	west Africa			Ogilby, 1670
Gueule-tapee	Cameroon			Morel and Mouchet, 1958
Gueule-tapee	Senegal			Roure, 1956; de Buffrenil, pers. comm.
Na-kwanga	Nigeria	Hausa		Bargery, 1934
Sao	Guinea			Tendiero, 1950
Anggogue	Ethiopia	Tigre		Lefebvre, 1845
Ardjano	Ethiopia	Amri		Lefebvre, 1845
Tatu'	Guinea			Bocage, 1893

Table 2. Local names of *Varanus ornatus*.

Local Name	Country/Region	Tribe/Locale	Language	Reference
Dgyou-Dgyou	eastern Nigeria			Angelici and Luiselli., 1999
Geedee	southern Nigeria	Ibo	Igbo (Kwa)	Page, 1908
Guana	Benin	Ibo		Deane, 1830
Ju-Ju	Nigeria	Ibo	Igbo (Kwa)	Adams, 1823; Cox, 1968; Bayless et al., 2003.
Ju-ju	Tanzania			Burton, 1972

Table 3. Local names of *V. albigularis*

Local Name	Country/Region	Tribe/Locale	Language	Reference
Agondwa	Malawi		Mang'anja	Scott, 1892
Ebanga	Malawi			Auerbach, 1995
Ebanga	Mozambique			Auerbach, 1995
Ekakala	Namibia	Oshikwanyama		Auerbach, 1995
Ekakala	Namibia	Oshiwambo		Jauch, 2002
Etatu	Angola	Ebanga		Monard, 1937
Godwa	Malawi		Chikunda	Scott, 1892
Gondoa	Malawi	Gorongosa		Auerbach, 1995
Gondoe	Malawi	Gorongosa		Auerbach, 1995
Gondwa	Malawi		Mang'anja	Scott, 1892; Loveridge, 1953; Auerbach, 1995
Gondwa	Congo	Nyangwe		Ginneken, 1914
Gondwama-lemu	Malawi		Mang'anja	Scott, 1892
Gopane	Botswana		Setswana	Auerbach, 1985, 1995; Clauss and Clauss, 2002
Gwababa	Botswana	Ndebele	Setswana	Aurbach, 1985
Gwahli	Botswana	Shangaan		Aurbach, 1995
Gwavava	Malawi			Auerbach, 1995
Imbulu	Zululand	Xhosa		Auerbach, 1995
Imbulu	Zimbabwe	Shona		Chubb, 1909
Intaka	Botswana	Amandebele		Thomas, 1873
Ixamu	Zululand	Xhosa		Auerbach, 1995
Kakala	Angola	Mulondo		Monard, 1937
Kakandamuti	Angola	Mupa		Monard, 1937
Kama	Comoro Islands	Comoros		Auerbach, 1995
Kama	Kenya	Kigiryama		Auerbach, 1995
Kama	Kenya	Kikauma		Auerbach, 1995
Kama	Kenya	Kipokomo		Auerbach, 1995
Kama	Kenya	Kiswahili		Auerbach, 1995
Kgatwane	Botswana	Tsa Metsi	Setswana	Auerbach, 1985
Kgwate	Botswana	Tsa Metsi	Setswana	Auerbach, 1985
Kgwathe	Botswana		Setswana	Clauss and Clauss, 2002
Leguvan	Zambia		Africaans	Pitman, 1934
Ligondo	Malawi	Yoa		Loveridge, 1953
Liongondo	Tanzania	Kimakonde		Loveridge, 1942
Lubambi	Congo		Ki-yansi	Johnston, 1884
Mbambi	Congo	Bantu	Ki-teke', Kixi	Johnston, 1884; Bentley, 1887; Keirans, 1984
Mbambi	northern Angola			Keirans, 1984
Mbulu	Zambia		Nyanja	Broadley, 1971
Mfumba	Zambia			Boulenger, 1907
Mongagi	Kenya		Kitaita	Loveridge, 1936

Table 3. *continued*

Local Name	Country/Region	Tribe/Locale	Language	Reference
Mubulu	Zambia		Nyanja	Broadley, 1971
Mucelalesa	Zambia	Bemba	UwuLamba	Doke, 1963
Mukomeka	Zambia	Bemba	UwuLamba	Doke, 1963
Mussenvu	Angola	Lwena		Laurent, 1964
Ng'anzi	South Africa	Zulu	Bantu	Werner, 1933
Ngondo	Tanzania	Kimawiha		Loveridge, 1942
Tatu'	Angola			Bocage, 1895
Tchitatu	Angola	Tshokwe		Laurent, 1964
UmBulu	South Africa	Zulu		Cowles, 1936
Uru	Kenya		Kiamu	Loveridge, 1936
Uru	Kenya		Kipokomo	Loveridge, 1936
Uru	Kenya		Kiswahili	Loveridge, 1936
Veldlikkewaan	Namibia		Africaans	Grobler, 1981; Jauch, 2002
Witkeel	South Africa		Africaans	Auerbach, 1985

Table 4. Local names of *V. niloticus*.

Local Name	Country/Region	Tribe/Locale	Language	Reference
Anakana	Kenya	Karamojong		Loveridge, 1936
Anggogue	Ethiopia	Tigre		Lefebvre, 1845
Ardjano	Ethiopia	Amri		Lefebvre, 1845
Awonriwon	Nigeria	Yoruba		Dunger, 1967
Baranta	Egypt		Hamed	Flower, 1933
Cieng-Gangni	Sudan	Lak	Nuer	Evans-Pritchard, 1956
Dji-ma	South Africa	Thongas		Junod, 1962
Enswa-swa	Uganda	Kizima		Carpenter, 1925; Pitman, 1941
Gaang	Sudan	Karamojong	Nuer	Jackson, 1923
Gaang	Sudan	Riaq	Nuer	Jackson, 1923
Gaang	Sudan	Tchuak	Nuer	Jackson, 1923
Gedo	Kenya		Kipokomo	Loveridge, 1936
Guana	Guinea-Bissau			Beaver, 1805
Guana	Liberia			Johnston, 1906
Guana	Malawi			Scott, 1892
Guana	South Africa	Bechuana		Kirby, 1940; Kennedy, 1961
Guza	Nigeria	Hausa		Bargery, 1934; Abraham and Kano, 1949; Dunger, 1967; Newman, 1990; Awde, 1996
Hopani	Zambia		Lozi	Broadley, 1971
Imambe	Zambia	Bemba	UwuLamba	Doke, 1963
Imbulu	Kenya		Luragoli	Loveridge, 1936
Imbulu	Kenya		Lutereki	Loveridge, 1936

Table 4. *continued*

Local Name	Country/Region	Tribe/Locale	Language	Reference
Imbulu ya Manzi	Botswana	Amandebele		Thomas, 1873
Inga	Cameroon			Tornier, 1902
Insamba	Zambia	Bemba	UwuLamba	Doke, 1963
Ixame	Zululand	Zulu		Pooley, 1992
Kawawa	South Africa	Bantu	Tumbuka	Werner, 1933
Kenge	Tanzania		Kiswahili	Barbour and Loveridge, 1928; Huntingford, 1980; Pakenham, 1983
Kenge	South Africa	Bantu	Swahili	Werner, 1933
Kenge	Uganda		Swahili	Ansorge, 1899
Kwahle	South Africa	Thongas		Junod, 1962
Libekazansi	South Africa	Swaziland	Swazi	Marwick, 1940
Libulu	Tanzania	Chigogo	Wagogo	Loveridge, 1928
Likkewaan	South Africa			Butchart, 1987; Switak, 2000
Locengue	Angola			Bocage, 1893, 1895
Margoban	Chad	Kanuri		Nachtigal, 1881
Mbulu	Tanzania	Kisambara		Loveridge, 1942
Mburu	Zambia			Hughes, 1920
Ming'anzi	Malawi		Mang'anja	Scott, 1892
Mng'anzi	Malawi		Mang'anja	Scott, 1892
Mpenembe	Malawi		Chikunda	Scott, 1892
Mussenvu	Angola	Tshokwe		Laurent, 1952; 1964
Mwanzi	Malawi	Nyungwe		Loveridge, 1953
Ng'anzi	Malawi		Mang'anja	Scott, 1892
Ng'anzi	South Africa	Bantu	Nyanja	Werner, 1933
Ngombi	Cameroon			Tornier, 1902
Ngondo	Tanzania	Kimakonde		Loveridge, 1942
Nswaswa	Uganda	Bantu		Murphy, 1972
Nwakhwahle	South Africa	Thongas		Junod, 1962
Nxamu	Natal, S. Africa	Bantu		Werner, 1933
Qamu	Natal, S. Africa	Swaziland		Cowles, 1930
Penembe	Mozambique	Chisena		Cott, 1934
Polo	Botswana		Setswana	Clauss and Clauss, 2002
Polometse	Botswana		Setswana	Clauss and Clauss, 2002
Polometse	South Africa	Pedi		Quinn, 1959
Sakata	Malawi	Yao		Loveridge, 1953
Sangoe	Angola			Bocage, 1895
Tsari	Nigeria	Hausa		Bargery, 1934; Newman, 1990
Tyitatu	Angola	Ngangelases		Monard, 1937
Urwald	Cameroon			Tornier, 1902
Uxamu	South Africa	Bantu	Zulu	Werner, 1933

Table 4. *continued*

Local Name	Country/Region	Tribe/Locale	Language	Reference
Waraan	Egypt	Arab	Arabic	Attum, 2000
Waral	Sudan		Arabic	Hillelson, 1930
Waran	Liberia		Arabic	Johnston, 1906
Waran (male)	Egypt		Arabic	Bey, 1929
Warana (female)	Egypt		Arabic	Bey, 1929
Warana (female)	Sudan		Nuer	Flower, 1910; Jackson, 1923
Waran-el-bahr	Egypt	Arab	Arabic	Wilkinson, 1878
Wa-ya	Malawi		Mang'anja	Scott, 1892
Wurran-el-bahr	Egypt		Arabic	Rawlinson, 1860, 1880

Table 5. Local names of *Varanus sp.*

Local Name	Country/Region	Tribe/Locale	Language	Reference
Abagengen	Niger	Taureg		Nicolas, 1950
Amomol	Uganda			Driberg, 1923
Andzi	Congo	Nyangwe		Ginneken, 1914
Ayato	Niger	Taureg		Nicolas, 1950
Ayo	Nigeria	Ibo	Awka	Thomas, 1913
Bemba	Zambia			Lehmann, 1983
Ekakala	Namibia	Oshindonga		Viljoen, 1984
Embulu	Malawi	Kitosh	Nyanza	Hull, 1942
Embulu	Malawi	Samia	Nyanza	Hull, 1942
Ffubutusi	Uganda	Bantu		Murphy, 1972
Guanoes	Guinea			Smith, 1744
Imbulu	Malawi	Bunyore	Nyanza	Hull, 1942
Imbulu	Malawi	Hanga	Nyanza	Hull, 1942
Imbulu	Malawi	Kakamega	Nyanza	Hull, 1942
Imbulu	Malawi	Maragoli	Nyanza	Hull, 1942
Imbulu	Malawi	Teriki	Nyanza	Hull, 1942
Kada-garei	Niger	Taureg		Nicolas, 1950
Kasale	Malawi		Mang'anja	Scott, 1892
Kkonkome	Uganda	Bantu		Murphy, 1972
Kwa-awa	Congo	Nyangwe		Ginneken, 1914
Leguane	Guinea			Bosman, 1705
Lokekele	Congo	Lomongo		Ruskin, 1928
Martas	Malawi	Suk	Nyanza	Hull, 1942
Mbambi Ngombi	Congo	Bavili		Dennett, 1906
Mengubeit	Malawi	Kipsigis	Nyanza	Hull, 1942
Nabulwe	Zambia	Ba-ila	Ila	Smith, 1920
Ngaro	Namibia			Auerbach, 1995
Ng'ech	Malawi	Luo	Nyanza	Hull, 1942

Table 5. *continued*

Local Name	Country/Region	Tribe/Locale	Language	Reference
Ngwelawoli	Nigeria	Ibo	Onitsha	Thomas, 1913
Ngwere	Nigeria	Ibo		Nnaji, 1985
Nkaya	Gabon	Fang/Yesux		Trilles, 1912
Nsux	Gabon	Fang/Yesux		Trilles, 1912
Odwongmon	Uganda			Driberg, 1923
Omiaveze	Benin	Kwa	Bini	Melzian, 1937
Soro	Namibia			Auerbach, 1995
Tara	Nigeria	Hausa		Schon, 1888
Tari	Nigeria	Hausa		Schon, 1888
Tsxe	Namibia			Auerbach, 1995

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