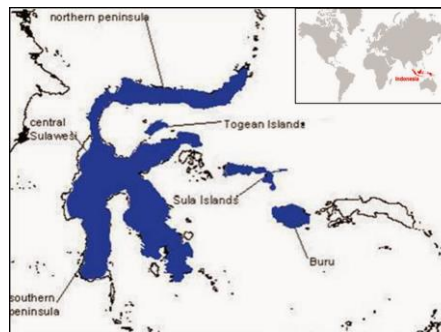




## Babirusa

The **babirusa** (also known as **deer-pig**) is a member of the **pig family** (*Suidae*) inhabiting the **Indonesian islands** of Sulawesi, Togian, Sula and Buru. Curiously enough, though, they are not found on the large islands between these last two, the Banggai Archipelago: such an unusual distribution has been ascribed to human transportation, even though (being **excellent swimmers**) they may also have made their way to the neighboring islands by sea. The preferred habitat of babirusa are **tropical rainforests**, especially along river banks. Their most remarkable feature is a set of prominent upwards **tusks** sported by the males, and which actually pierce the flesh in the snout while growing. Accordingly, if a babirusa does not grind its tusks on a regular basis, they can eventually keep growing until penetrating the animal's own skull. There are **four species** of babirusas, none of which uses these tusks for combat due to their brittleness; they are therefore thought to be for display only.



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