


NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

IIS Initiates Bahamian Study

The International Iguana Society has initiated surveys to determine the status of several species of Bahamian iguanas. A long term study of a small population of *Cyclura rileyii nuchalis* was begun by Dr. Richard Montanucci, Robert W. Ehrig, and Richard Moyroud on 12 May 1993. Fifty iguanas were captured, measured, weighed, marked, and released on a small Bahamian island. The vegetative communities were inventoried on this cay and other islands that currently harbor Bahamian iguana populations. A second research team is attempting to update the status of the Exuma Island Iguana, *Cyclura cyclura figginsi*. The project is continuing through July.

The project has already yielded new information on the Bahamian iguanas. Two young male *Cyclura rileyii* were observed in bipedal jousting matches. The animals circled each other on hind legs in an open mouthed, territorial display with tails extended horizontally. This behavior is previously unknown in iguanas and is probably not physically possible for a larger species. All work was performed under permit from the Department of Agriculture of the Bahamas and with the cooperation of the Bahamas National Trust. A full report of this project will appear in the next issue of *Iguana Times*. 



Female, *Cyclura rileyii nuchalis*, in habitat. Photograph: R. W. Ehrig



Males, *Cyclura rileyi nuchalis*. Photography: Ron Harrod