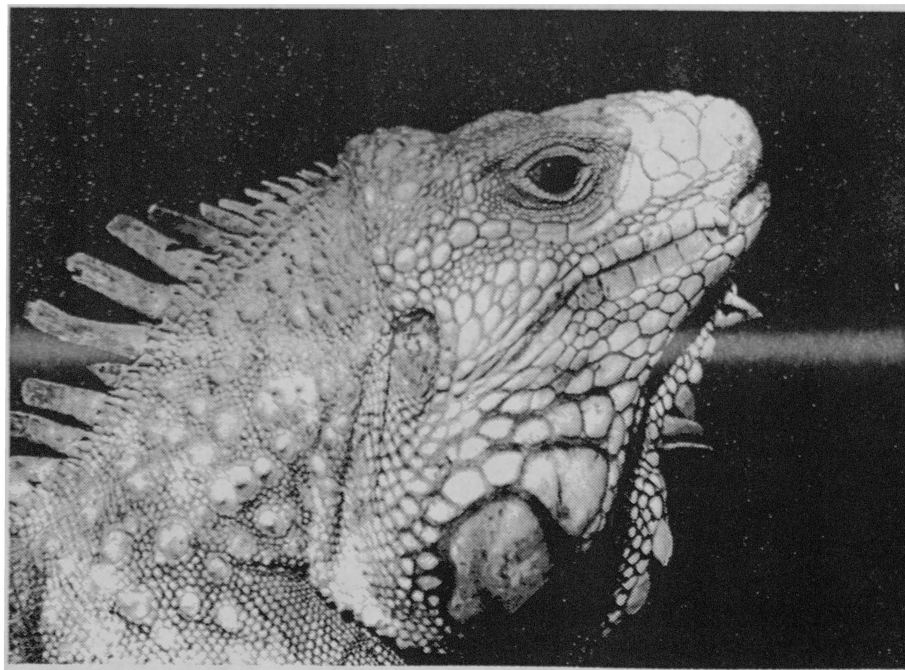


What Are We?

No, it's not the *Cyclura* society, although right now it may seem that way to some of you. It just happens that several members of the Board are working on projects dealing with this West Indian genus. Also, a number of *Cyclura* species happen to be on the edge of extinction and this has many people both within and outside the society very alarmed. We are the International Iguana Society and our attention is focused exclusively on members of the family Iguanidae as recently redefined by two systematists, Darrel Frost and Richard Etheridge (Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist. Misc. Publ. No. 81; 1989). Formerly, the family was large, consisting of about 54 genera and 546 species. However, no shared-derived characteristics could be found to support the monophyly of this family exclusive of Old World Agamidae and Chamaeleonidae. Therefore, Frost and Etheridge, in a comprehensive morphological analysis subdivided this cumbersome group into eight monophyletic families. The family Iguanidae, as now redefined, consists of the following genera: *Amblyrhynchus*, *Brachylophus*, *Conolophus*, *Ctenosaura*, *Cyclura*, *Dipsosaurus*, *Iguana*, and *Sauromalus* (the genus *Enyaliosaurus* has been synonymized with *Ctenosaura*, although this action may be disputed).

The International Iguana Society has an important mission. First, we intend to disseminate and exchange information on all aspects of the ecology, population biology, behavior, captive husbandry, conservation, and systematics of iguanas. Also, the society will encourage and support active conservation projects, either alone or in cooperation with other organizations. We will assist the governments of countries where iguanas occur to conserve and protect these animals and their habitats by promoting sustainable economies compatible with the maintenance of biodiversity. We are a unique society and we face enormous challenges because iguanas and their habitats are threatened just about everywhere they occur. In order to accomplish our goals, we must expand our base of support. The I.I.S. greatly appreciates the support and commitment received thus far from its members and looks toward the future with optimism and determination. If we can save iguanas and their habitats, this world will be a better place for humans and lizards alike. Let's do more than flick our tongues, let's lash our tails! The Editor.



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