

IGUANA NEWSBRIEFS

2nd Annual Captive Breeding Exposition

I.I.S. was well represented at the 2nd Captive Breeding Expo held in Orlando, Florida, at the Twin Towers Hotel on 16, 17, 18 August, 1991. The Expo, sponsored by the Central Florida Herpetological Society, has already become a legendary event. All animals sold at the expo are the cream of American herpetocultural captive breeding efforts. The variety of herps being bred in captivity is most impressive. I.I.S. President, Robert Ehrig, Editor, Richard Montanucci, and VP, David Blair, manned the I.I.S. booth. Central Florida I.I.S. members, Deborah Neufeld, Joan and Michael Fremo, and Jan Truse were instrumental in the successful exhibit. A general membership meeting was held on Saturday night. Eighteen new members joined the society.

Jamaican Update

The Jamaican Iguana Research Group, under the direction of Dr. Peter Vogel of the University of the West Indies, Kingston, has removed a clutch of iguana eggs from a nesting site in the Hellshire Hills. The Jamaican iguana, *Cyclura collei*, is on the verge of extinction due to habitat destruction and predation from mongoose and feral pig. Development schemes are now being planned for the Hellshire area which, if carried through, would doom the iguana. The sixteen eggs are being incubated at the University of the West Indies. The future survival of *Cyclura collei* rests heavily with a captive-breeding program, for success in this endeavor would substantially increase the world population of Jamaican iguanas. I.I.S. hopes for a successful hatch.

Molecular Systematics of the Iguanas

Drs. Jack Sites (Brigham Young University) and John Iverson (Earlham College) are studying the molecular evolution of the family Iguanidae. They have been collecting tissues over the past four years and now have samples from all genera of iguanas (12 species so far), as well as 15 other genera which are near relatives of the Iguanidae. They plan to examine variation in proteins using gel electrophoresis and to study sequence divergence of mitochondrial and ribosomal DNA. These approaches should provide three relatively independent data sets for generating and testing alternative phylogenetic hypotheses for this lizard family. Please contact them if you have live iguanid lizards that must be euthanized. They will remove tissues and return preserved specimens as vouchers. Drs. Sites and Iverson are especially interested in obtaining island *Sauromalus*, *Iguana* from the Antilles, and *Enyaliosaurus*.

The International Iguana Society, Inc. is an international membership, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the biological diversity of the iguanas through habitat preservation, active conservation, research, and the dissemination of information. Iguana Times, the newsletter of the Society is distributed quarterly to members and member organizations. Additional copies are available at a cost of \$4.00 including postage.

The International Iguana Society, Inc.

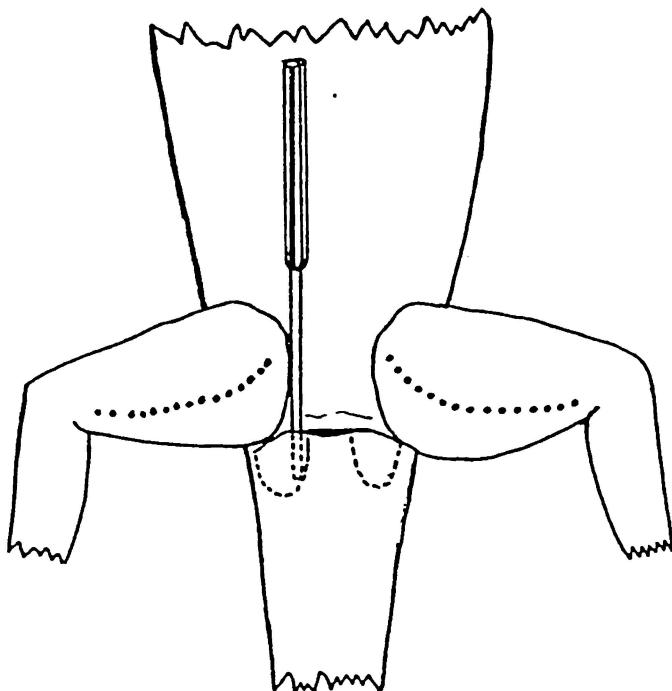
On 2 August, 1991, I.I.S. was one year old as an organization. The Board of Directors considers this a milestone since the idea of the society was only conceived a few months earlier. Through the determination of a small group of iguana advocates, a conservation and education organization was born and it already has begun to make a difference. The credit belongs to our 180 plus members in nine countries and thirty states. This diverse group has shown a remarkable enthusiasm to preserve iguanas. Without them the society could not exist.

The International Iguana Society wishes to thank the following organizations and individuals for their support:

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FEMALE



MALE

