

# CYCLURA COLLEI UPDATE

We have recently received word from Dr. Peter Vogel, head of the *Cyclura collei* Research and Conservation Group, that they now hold thirty-one Jamaican iguana hatchlings in captivity in Kingston. These animals will be reared for captive breeding stock and eventual re-release into the wild. Unfortunately, the Jamaican Ministry of Mining has requested to have half of the Hellshire Hills declared as a limestone quarry zone. This would

almost certainly spell disaster for the remaining population of iguanas in the Hills. A major campaign is now underway to have the entire forty-four square miles declared a protected area under a recent Jamaican law. We wish Dr. Vogel great success in this endeavor. Perhaps Goat and Little Goat Islands should also be considered as possible sanctuaries. 🦎

## DNA STUDY RESULTS

Edward Lewis of Texas A&M University has just released results of his blood haplotype study of *Cyclura n. lewisi* in captivity. Unfortunately, most of the specimens tested are apparently intergrades with the closely related iguana *C.n. caymanensis*, including numerous animals held in the captive breeding program on Grand Cayman Island. This

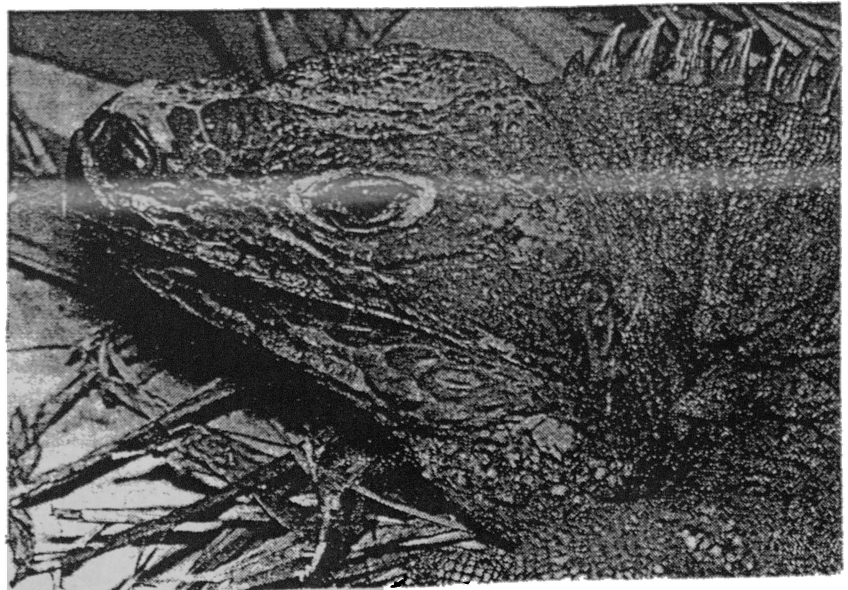
is cause for concern as many of these animals had been scheduled for eventual release into the wild. It may be appropriate to sterilize all hybrid animals, at least on Grand Cayman, to reduce the chance of contamination of the few remaining wild iguanas.



## MAGUEYES CUBAN IGUANAS

A visit in June 1992 by Dave Blair, IIS VP to Isla Magueyes, Puerto Rico has revealed that the previously reported "thriving" population of introduced Cuban Rock Iguanas, *Cyclura n. nubila*, apparently now consists mostly of older adult animals. Although his visit was very brief and only a portion of the island was explored, not a single hatchling or juvenile was seen. In fact, the youngest

animal observed was at least three years of age. Long term employees on the island confirmed that the number of iguanas has declined in recent years. Several cats seen on the island may be responsible for the scarcity of small iguanas for their prowess as efficient lizard predators has been well documented in the past. 🦎



Jamaican Rock Iguana, *Cyclura collei*.  
Photography: Peter Vogel!