

IGUANA NEWSBRIEFS

UPDATE:

IGUANA SMUGGLING SENTENCING

Tom Crutchfield, a Bushnell Florida reptile dealer, was sentenced in federal court for his recent conviction of conspiring to smuggle four endangered Fiji Banded Iguanas, *Brachyophus fasciatus*. In addition to a \$10,000 fine, Crutchfield received a 17 month prison sentence.



OUT OF THE EARTH

Marcie Ehrig reports hatching of hybrid Cayman Iguana, *Cyclura nubila lewisi* × *caymanensis* "in situ" at Finca Cyclura. A five year old female dug a long burrow in a sandy area in a large outdoor enclosure. After spending almost 48 hours underground, the female laid a clutch of eggs on 15 July 1992. It was decided to leave the clutch of eggs in the ground. On 1 November 1992, three hatchlings were found running around the enclosure. The enclosure was constructed of 1/2 × 1/2 inch mesh of hardware cloth which did not allow hatchlings to escape. Two more hatchlings were found in the late afternoon on 1 November 1992 and early afternoon 2 November. It

is believed that the hatchlings spent 2-3 weeks underground after hatching (12-18 Oct.) 88-94 days. The parents had little reaction to the neonates which explored the area around them, apparently feeling very safe. They did react to human presence by fleeing. Hatchlings were very large. Average overall length was 11.5 inches (28 cm) considerably larger than Cuban iguana hatchlings, *Cyclura nubila*, at 2-3 weeks are 11 inches (26 cm).



ANEGADA IGUANA ON GUANA

Dr. James "Skip" Lazell reports a small population of Anegada Rock Iguana, *Cyclura pinguis* thriving on Guana Island off the north coast of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. Guana Island is a 850 acre privately owned island. The sole development on the island is a very upscale resort. The iguana population, estimated at 20-35 adults, congregates in the area around the resort, on the east coast of the island. Reproduction has been successful. Hatchlings are sometimes sighted. Nesting occurs in sandy areas adjacent to the beach.

The iguanas were reintroduced to their namesake

island in 1984 with the introduction of a single gravid female. In 1985 she was joined by a group of seven additional animals (4.3). More than 100 sheep have been removed from Guana Island by conservationists. A small number of sheep remain, but the native vegetation is already recovering. The residents of Guana apparently are very attached to their iguanas. Restoration of the island to a more natural condition and protection from feral predators have allowed this largest native Virgin Island resident to thrive.

Note: Dr. Lazell feels the Anegada Rock Iguana is more correctly referred to as *Iguana pinguis*.



I.I.S. Vice President, David Blair, was one of four invited speakers at the First International Reptile Breeders Expo held October 3 and 4, 1992, in San Diego, California. David's talk and slide presentation on breeding and raising green and rock iguanas was well received by the standing-room-only crowd at the icebreaker held the evening following the first day of the Expo. Numerous membership applications for both the I.I.S. and The Friends of the Jamaican Iguana were

given out following the talk. The first annual two-day event was attended by over 4,000 people.



The I.I.S. was represented at the San Diego Herpetological Society's Fifth Annual Exhibition and Sale held November 14 and 15, 1992, at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar, California. The display featured dozens of color photographs of iguanas and newly purchased professional informational signage. I.I.S. Vice President, David Blair, manned the table both days and was also responsible for setting up and taking down the display. I.I.S. members, Dan Byrd and Silvia Villagomez, were a great help. Almost 300 I.I.S. membership applications were distributed at the event which was attended by over 5,000 people. Over a dozen new members and several 1993 renewals were signed up at the show.