CYCLURA LEWISI (Grand Cayman Blue Iguana). HATCHLINGS. Little is known of the behavior and ecology of hatchling Cyclura (Sauria: Iguanidae) and nothing is known about this age group in endangered Cyclura lewisi. Hence, we provide preliminary data on C. lewisi hatchling behavior and sizes.

On 28 June 2001, we measured and observed wild C. lewisi hatchlings from two nests that had been enclosed prior to emergence at the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, Grand Cayman (19°19′N, 81°10′W; elev. 2 m). Hatchlings were measured after emergence, then allowed to recover for 5–10 min. Subsequently, one wall of the enclosure was removed, and hatchlings were allowed to exit at their own pace to minimize altering their behavior. We then followed five of them for focal animal observations, but lost sight of all of them in < 1 h.

All iguanas tongue-touched the ground as they moved away from the nest site. One hatchling headbobbed several times (2–4 bobs per episode) as it moved away, but we did not see the other iguanas display in this way. Three of five hatchlings climbed into trees within 20 min of leaving the nest enclosure, suggesting that hatchling C. lewisi might be more arboreal than adult conspecifics. Within 10 min of release, we witnessed an attempted predation on one hatchling by a snake, the Grand Cayman Racer (Alsophis cantherigerus caymanus). The iguana, apparently reacting instinctively to the snake’s strike movement, escaped by jumping away and running ca. 3 m while the snake retreated back into a low wall, probably disturbed by the observer’s presence. We had previously witnessed snakes trying to gain access to hatchling C. lewisi in enclosures, but this was the first direct observation of attempted snake predation on C. lewisi hatchlings in the wild.

One hatchling returned to the nest chamber on the same day after leaving the nest site and enclosure. The iguana might have been going to use the nest as a nocturnal retreat, but we accidentally disturbed it during nest excavation that evening.

Two of five hatchlings tested a potential food item within 10 min of leaving the nest enclosure, but each rejected the item (a dried piece of grass and a legwood leaf, Haematoxylum campechianum). Less than 15 min after leaving the enclosure, one hatchling spent 35 sec drinking rainwater from the edge of a pond. Another hatchling purposefully ate soil, a behavior we have also seen in adults.

Wild hatchlings had absorbed most of their yolk sac by the time they emerged, had closed umbilical, were dry, and seemed markedly thinner than conspecifics immediately after the latter hatched from eggs incubated under controlled conditions. Captive hatchlings were wet at hatching, had abdomens swollen with yolk and visibly unsealed umbilical, and showed no interest in food or water until 2–3 weeks after hatching. The difference in yolk supply between captive-hatched and wild-hatched iguanas, coupled with the immediate drinking and foraging behavior displayed by the latter, implies a post-hatching underground residence time in the wild. Hatchlings of other species of iguanas (subfamily Iguaninae) have been suggested to remain in the nest chamber for several days to two weeks before emergence (Wieanders 1977. Ph.D. dissertation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; Christian and Tracy 1982. In Burghardt and Rand [eds.], Iguanas of the World: Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation, pp. 366–379. Noyes, Park Ridge, New Jersey).

Wild hatchlings averaged 94.3 mm SL (s = 7.4 mm, N = 6), and were significantly smaller than captive-bred hatchlings (mean SL = 100.8 mm, s = 3.6 mm, N = 17; Student’s t-test, t = 2.865, P = 0.009). The difference in size between wild and captive hatchlings might reflect differences in moisture levels or temperatures during incubation or differences in egg size relating to the age or nutritional state of the mothers (Packard and Packard 1988. In C. Gans and R. B. Huey [eds.], Biology of the Reptilia, vol. 16, pp. 523–605. Alan R. Liss, New York).

Our observations were collected during research approved by the National Trust for the Cayman Islands and the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park.

ENYALIOIDES COFANORUM (Cofan Wood Lizard). REPRODUCTION. Enyalioides cofanorum is a terrestrial holopelagid known from the Amazonian lowlands of Ecuador and Peru. A female collected from Santa Cecilia, Ecuador in March 1972 had two ovarian eggs (ca. 26 mm long) and another collected in July contained two oviducal eggs (ca. 28 mm long) (Duellman 1978. Misc. Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist. Univ. Kansas 65:1–352). Five adult females collected at Santa Cecilia averaged 104 mm snout-vent length (SVL; range: 91–115 mm; Duellman 1973. Herpetologica 29:228–231). Here, I augment the limited data on this species with observations made in eastern Amazonian Ecuador.

On 31 July 2001, a female E. cofanorum was collected resting horizontally on a branch 0.5 m above ground in primary terra firme forest at the Tiputini Biodiversity Station (0°37′05″S, 76°10′19″W; elev. 215 m). This field station, managed by the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, is located 280 km ESE of Quito on the north bank of the Tiputini River next to Yasuni National Park, Orellana Province, Ecuador (Cisneros-Heredia 2003. In De la Torre and Reck. [eds.], Ecología y Ambiente en el Ecuador: Mem. 1 Congr. Ecología y Ambiente, Ecuador. Mapa de Ambientes. CD, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador). The lizard was gravid and dissection revealed five shelled eggs. Eggs had a mean length of 25.6 mm (24.9–26.0 mm), a mean width of 10.4 mm (10.0–11.3 mm), a mean mass of 1.8 g (1.7–1.9 g; total clutch mass = 9.1 g), and a mean volume of 1.5 cm³ (1.4–1.7 cm³). The lizard was 95.7 mm SVL, 120.8 mm tail length, and mass (without eggs) of 27.9 g. The female and eggs (DFCH-USFQ 0538) were deposited at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito.

Based on these data, clutch size in E. cofanorum ranges from 2 to 5. This range is smaller, but overlaps that of E. laticeps, a sympatric arboreal/terrestrial congener with larger clutches (5–7 eggs, mean = 6.2), smaller eggs (15.0–16.6 mm, mean = 15.6 mm) and larger females (107–125 mm SVL, mean SVL = 114 mm; Duellman 1978, op. cit.; Vitt and De la Torre 1996. Research Guide Lizards of Cuyabeno. Mus. Zool. QCAZ-PUCE Monogr. 1:1–165).

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