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► To cite this version:

Jérémy Lemaire, Olivier Marquis. Observation of tail outgrowth on Schneider's Dwarf caiman (caiman trigonatus) in French Guiana. 2019. <hal-02409661>

HAL Id: hal-02409661

<https://hal.science/hal-02409661v1>

Submitted on 13 Dec 2019

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researchers in Brazil, no activities on crocodilians were included during the official program of the IX CBH (ie lectures, conferences, symposia, etc.). Therefore, during the meeting, a letter was written by students and researchers interested in crocodilians and participating at IX CBH, thanking IX CBH for the space provided for the side-meeting and requesting the inclusion of crocodilians in the official program of the next CBH. The letter was handed to the president of the Brazilian Society of Herpetology, which is responsible for the CBH.

Creating a researcher group/network will be essential to discuss research strategies, management and conservation of crocodilians in Brazil. The consolidation of this group will promote and facilitate partnerships, enabling contact between students, researchers, and collaborators (ie managers, breeders, environmental agencies) from different regions, through the exchange of information, data, samples and practical experiences on the 6 crocodilian species in Brazil. It is hoped that through this group it will be possible to attract professionals and researchers from this study area, giving greater visibility to the importance of crocodilians, as well as providing tools for conservation and management practices, and discussing the future of crocodilians in our country.

Luís Bassetti, *CSG Regional Chair for Latin America and the Caribbean and University of São Paulo, Brazil.*

Cuba

CREATION OF GROUP OF CROCODILE SPECIALISTS OF CUBA. On 22-26 July 2019, the Flora and Fauna Business Group held the National Crocodile Program (PNC) meeting at the crocodile breeding centre in Manzanillo, Granma, Cuba. The main objective of this meeting was to update the status of work activities with captive and wild crocodile populations.

Following presentation of results obtained by the integral development projects, the current status of reproduction, food availability, population management, study of these topics in the wild, achievements and difficulties, were known.



By the end of the meeting, several agreements had been made, with the goal of solving the problems identified, and strengthening support for work with crocodiles of Cuba. These included: Preparation of a guide or technical manual about the handling of captive crocodiles in Cuba; and, creation of a “Group of Crocodile Specialists of Cuba” (GECC) from the PNC.

With regard to the GECC, the management structure comprises: Chair (Dr. Manuel Alonso Tabet); Executive Officer (Gustavo Sosa Rodríguez); and, Scientific Advisor (Dr. Roberto Ramos Targarona) - all of whom are also members of the IUCN-SSC Crocodile Specialist Group. Ordinary members of the GECC are Grabiél Cisneros, Yairen Alonso Jimenez, Grabiél Brul Puebla and Etiam Arturo Pérez Fleitas.

Gustavo Sosa Rodríguez (*gustavo.sosa@nauta.cu*).

French Guiana

OBSERVATION OF TAIL OUTGROWTH ON SCHNEIDER’S DWARF CAIMAN (*CAIMAN TRIGONATUS*) IN FRENCH GUIANA. Schneider’s Dwarf caiman (*Paleosuchus trigonatus*) is a forest crocodilian whose ecology remains largely unknown (Magnusson and Campos 2010). It is a discrete species that prefers dense forest, leading to rare exposure to direct UV radiation. *Paleosuchus trigonatus* lives in small streams and often uses terrestrial burrows or caves formed by rocky masses to retreat to during the day (Magnusson and Lima 1991; Lemaire *et al.* 2018).



Figure 1. Location of Nouragues Reserve in French Guiana.

Here, we report on an individual *P. trigonatus* captured in January 2018, in the “Réserve Naturelle Nationale des Nouragues”, in French Guiana (4°05’N, 52°41’W; Fig. 1). The individual was 40 cm SVL, and had an unusual 4-cm outgrowth on the left side of its tail, at the second single vertical tail scute. The outgrowth was hard, rigid and completely covered by keratin (Fig. 2).

The animal was equipped with a VHF beacon (HOLOHIL, RI-2C2, 36 months), and after 4 additional observations it did not seem to have any difficulties getting inside a burrow.



Figure 2. Tail outgrowth on *Paleosuchus trigonatus*.

Acknowledgments

This study was partly funded by the research and conservation funds of Paris Zoo, the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) of French Guiana, Office de l'eau de Guyane, Agence Française pour la Biodiversité, Direction de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement, et du Logement en Guyane. We thank the Nouragues Research Field Station (managed by CNRS) which benefits from "Investissement d'Avenir" grant managed by Agence Nationale de la Recherche (AnaEE France ANR-11-INBS-0001; Labex CEBA ANR-10-LABX-25-01). And thanks to David Oudjani for help in the field.

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Europe

4TH EUROPEAN CROC NETWORK MEETING. The 4th European Croc Network meeting (ECNM2019) was held on 4-6 October 2019, at the National Reptile Zoo in Kilkenny, Ireland. We had 52 participants from 16 countries, representing research, conservation, husbandry, fashion and industry, along with hobbyists and enthusiasts.

We started off with a workshop on alligator target training, run by James Hennessy. The talks held throughout the weekend also provided further opportunity to learn how target training is used in education and outreach (Sarah Carpentier), and in captive *Tomistoma* management (Iri Gill).

Conservation efforts were highlighted by Rikki Gumbs, who presented the current projects on critically endangered crocodilians prioritised using the EDGE metric, Flavio Morrissiey who showed successful strategies for raising money for crocodile conservation, and Marisa Tellez presenting the effects of pollution on crocodiles in Belize. We followed up with research being conducted on crocodilian cognition (Stephan Reber), crocodylomorph neuroanatomy (Mark Young), American crocodile nesting in Cuba (Roberto Rodríguez-Soberón), and the MSc on crocodile-parasite interactions in Belize conducted by Joe Patryka after attending the first ECN meeting in 2016. The keynote lecture by Jeff Lang on the Gharials in the Chambal was one of the highlights of the weekend.

The poster session provided further opportunity to learn about exciting projects conducted by participants, with the prize for best poster going to Jérémy Lemaire for his work on caimans in French Guiana.

Our traditional speed-dating session gave all participants a further opportunity to mingle and exchange ideas, and the process received a very positive feedback, particularly from prospective students. To provide further training, we also held workshops on experimental design (led by Rob Gandola) and field techniques and community outreach (led by Marisa Tellez).



Figure 1. Speed-dating session.