

Studbook breeding programme

Ctenosaura melanosterna

Honduran Paleate Spiny-Tailed Iguana



Photo by: René Gaal

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1. Introduction:

In February 2007 the IUCN (the World Conservation Union) classified the species of *Ctenosaura melanosterna* as critical endangered. The need of a studbook was born.

04 June 2007 the Studbook of *Ctenosaura melanosterna* was a fact.

Ctenosaura melanosterna is a Spiny Tail Iguana species from Honduras. It is found on the mainland (Rio Aguan Valley) and on the islands Hog and Cayos Chochinos. The habitat on the mainland is dry subtropical/tropical forest. The habitat on the islands is tropical forest.

There are not many animals in captivity. At the start of the studbook we know only 5 locations where *C. melanosterna* are kept. 4 in the Netherlands and 1 in the USA. Only 3 locations (Blijdorp, Gaal, Stienen) were interested in joining the studbook. The other two locations can be named traders.

2. Studbook population

At present December 31-12-14, the studbook population is 4.03.00 (7).

3. Location

The 7 living specimens are kept on 3 locations, 2 in the Netherlands, 1 Finland.

4. Birth

There were no successful births in the last three years.

5. Imports

There are no imports from the republic of Honduras.

6. Death

On 3 locations there were a total number of 4 animals who died (1-3-0)

7. Transfers

19 animals were transferred to private persons. Those animals were all related to the adult animals on the three locations.

8. Discussion

During the CITES CoP15, the proposals of Guatemala and Honduras to place 4 *Ctenosaura* species (*bakeri*, *melanosterna*, *oedirhina* and *palearis*) on CITES Appendix II, were accepted. Wild caught and trade in reptiles appeared to be compelling points. Reptile forums play an indirect role in this.

For the coming years it's important for the studbook to find all unknown *C. melanosterna* in Europe. As this point we need all the unrelated bloodlines, because there will be no import coming from Honduras again.

Also it's important that the Studbook try to find new participants for the studbook. We are looking for participants who have the possibility to keep *C. melanosterna* in large enclosures.

The worldwide crisis is not helping the studbook. A lot of people don't want animals who need a large enclosure. The cost of electricity is high and people don't want to spend those costs anymore. For *C. melanosterna* there is an extra handicap. The behavior of this animal is quite difficult. Because of that fact, this middle size Iguana needs a very large enclosure to keep on pair. This is the reason that this Iguana is not popular to keep.

I hope that the owners of the few animals that are left in Europe and who are not related to the animals of the studbook, will join the studbook in the coming year. To save this Iguana in ex situ for extinction, we need all the bloodlines we can find.

9. References

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