

Studbook breeding programme
Ctenosaura melanosterna
Honduran Paleate
Spiny-Tailed Iguana



Photo by: René Gaal

Annual report 2014

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1. Introduction:

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

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

Ctenosaura melanosterna is a Spiny Tailed 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* was kept. 4 in the Netherlands and 1 in the USA. Only 3 locations (Rotterdam Zoo, Gaal, Stienen) were interested in joining the studbook. The other two locations can be named traders.



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2. Studbook population:

At present December 31, 2014 the studbook population is 3.1.00 (4).

3. Locations:

The 4 living specimens are kept on 3 locations, 2 in the Netherlands, 1 in Finland.

4. Births:

There were no successful births in the past four years.

5. Imports:

There were no imports from the republic of Honduras.

6. Deaths:

On the locations there was a total number of 2 animals that died (0-2-0)

7. Transfers:

In 2014 there were no transfers.



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8. Discussion

In the past few years the studbook keepers always pointed on the small size of the studbook and the need for more new bloodlines.

After the death of two females last year, we have to decide to stop the active studbook. We don't have enough different bloodlines for a healthy studbook. This is not the end of the studbook. The studbook keepers will continue with their search for new bloodlines. Besides their search they will do their conservation and research work for *Ctenosaura melanosterna*.

As studbook keepers we hope that owners of *Ctenosaura melanosterna* understand the situation with. There are so few animals left in captivity in Europe, that if we do not join and start breeding this Iguana, the species will become extinct in captivity in Europe. Only the studbook is the solution to save *Ctenosaura melanosterna* for the future. It's very important that we save this animal for the future, the situation on the mainland of Honduras is even worse.

The size of the population must be very small and the drugs problems in the area make it even worse. Only the population on Hog-Island in front of the coast of Honduras, is quite stable.

The need for a captive population of *Ctenosaura melanosterna* is very important for this reason.

As studbook keepers we still have the hope, that owners of *Ctenosaura melanosterna* will join the studbook and together we can save the captive population in Europe.



Photo by: René Gaal

9. References

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