pp.). Predatory fish such as bass have only infrequently been reported to eat hatchling turtles (Semlitsch and Gibbons 1989. Copeia 1989:1030–1031; Britson and Gutzke 1993. Copeia 435–440); however, it is not possible to state whether the specimen reported here was ingested alive or dead. Both studies reported that *Micropterus salmoides* (largemouth bass) eat dead hatchling turtles, but not live ones. The presence of the hatchling in a fish at this location indicates that there is nesting along Pushepatapa Creek by *G. gibbonsi*, and that nest emergence occurs in late summer-early fall.

We thank Randy Lanctot for saving the specimen and depositing it in the Museum of Natural History.

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CROCODYLIA

CAIMAN LATIROSTRIS (Broad-snouted Caiman). **COMMUNAL NESTING**. Communal nesting is described for many squamates (e.g., Capula and Luiselli 1995. Herpetol. Rev. 26:38; Rand 1968. Copeia 1968:552–561; Shanbhag 1999. Herpetol. Rev. 30:166; Swain and Smith 1978. Herpetologica 34:175–177), but little is known about this behavior among crocodilians. Yanosky (1990. Revue Fr. Aquariol. 17:19–31) mentioned communal nesting in *Caiman latirostris*, but did not detail his evidence. Here, I describe evidence for communal nesting in *C. latirostris* from Estancia El Lucero in the northern part of Departamento San Cristobal, Provincia de Santa Fe, Argentina.

During harvest of caiman eggs for Proyecto Yacare in the unusually dry season of January 2000, I discovered a small (ca. 1 ha) lagoon within a dense bulrush (*Scirpus*) and cattail (*Typha*)-dominated marsh 8 km N Estancia El Lucero (29°54'43"S, 60°50'36"W). This lagoon was the only body of water within 20 km. During my survey of the lagoon, I found 23 *C. latirostris* nests scattered in its floating vegetation that contained a total of 879 eggs. Three of these nests exhibited evidence of oviposition by more than one female: egg numbers were higher than clutch sizes reported for *C. latirostris*, clusters of eggs of at least two different sizes were present, and nests were at least partly divided into two or more chambers. Two of the three nests had 59–67 eggs, two different sizes of eggs, and partial division of the nest into two chambers. The remaining nest had 129 eggs, was divided into four chambers, but had a central chamber with eggs of different sizes, some of which were broken. These data suggest that 2 or 4 females created these nests. Clutch size range reported for *C. latirostris* (23–44, mean = 37.1; Larriera 1991. Rev. Asoc. Cienc. Nat. Litoral 22:19–23) is similar to the number of eggs in the other 20 nests I found in the lagoon (19–41; mean = 31.2), which supports the idea that one female made each one. Nests with evidence of communal oviposition did not differ substantially in size and shape from remaining *C. latirostris* nests.

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CROCODYLUS ACUTUS (American Crocodile). **HATCHLING DIET**. Few field studies of hatchling crocodilian diets exist, and the feeding ecology of hatchling *C. acutus* is unstudied. We provide the first report on the diet of hatchling *C. acutus* based on data from Turneffe Atoll, Belize, a ca. 50-km island chain located 35 km E of the mainland.

On 9 July 1997, we captured 26 hatchlings from a black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*) lagoon (<1 ha) next to a known *C. acutus* nesting beach (Platt and Thorbjarnarson 2000. Copeia 2000:869–873) on Northern Cay (17°29'N, 87°47'W). Despite recent heavy rainfall, salinity (measured with an Atago S-10E® optical refractometer) in the lagoon matched that of seawater (34 ppt). Hatchlings were captured by hand from 2000 to 2230 h with the aid of a headlamp. Two adult crocodiles also present in the lagoon did not respond to distress calls of hatchlings during the latter's capture. Hatchlings were measured (total length [TL]; snout-vent length [SVL]; and head length [HL]: measured dorsally from the tip of snout to median posterior edge of the cranial roof), permanently marked by notching a unique series of caudal scutes, and then released at the capture site the next night. Mean (± SD) hatchling morphometrics were: TL = 28.8 ± 1.0 cm (range = 26.2–34.0 cm); SVL = 13.7 ± 1.0 cm (range = 12.4–16.3 cm); HL = 4.3 ± 3.1 cm (range = 3.9–5.0 cm); HL/SVL ratio = 0.31 ± 0.004 (range = 0.30–0.32). Based on presence of an egg tooth and open umbilical scar, 20 of the hatchlings were probably < 7 days old; the remainder were estimated at 7–21 days old.

Stomach contents were flushed using a modification of the technique Taylor et al. (1978. J. Herpetol. 12:415–417) described. A flexible plastic tube (30 cm long; 5.5 mm exterior diameter) lubricated with vegetable oil was eased down the esophagus and into the stomach. Water (ca. 4 cc) was slowly poured into the tube until the abdomen distended visibly. Gently palpating the abdomen caused a mixture of water and stomach contents to surge into the tube. The hatchling was then inverted and the mixture directed across a fine mesh screen. The process was repeated (usually 3–4 times) until only water free of stomach contents was observed.

We recovered prey items from 18 (69%) hatchlings; six of 20 (30%) hatchlings < 7 days old and two of six (33%) older hatchlings had empty stomachs, indicating that neonates initiate feeding within a week of hatching. Similarly, Platt (1996. The Ecology and Status of Morelet's Crocodile in Belize. Dissertation, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina) found hatchling *C. moreletii* began feeding 4–7 days post-hatching, and prey items have been recovered from 1–2-day-old *Caiman crocodilus* (JBT and T. Escalona, unpubl. data). Hatchling *C. acutus* with empty stomachs were not included in our dietary analysis. Stomach flushing suggests that hatchling *C. acutus* feed mostly on invertebrates. Insect remains were recovered from 12 (67%) hatchlings and consisted primarily of highly macerated bits of chitin and fleshy material unidentifiable to taxon, although one contained parts of a beetle (Coleoptera). The stomach contents of five (27%) hatchlings contained crustaceans, probably fiddler crabs (*Uca* sp.), which were abundant along the shoreline. Thorbjarnarson (1988. Bull. Florida State Mus., Biol. Sci. 33:1–86) found fiddler crabs to be the most important prey of juvenile (TL < 0.5 m) *C. acutus* in Haiti. A partially digested fish (length = 13.5 mm) recovered from one (5%) hatchling was the only vertebrate found among the stomach contents we examined. We expected higher levels of fish