

flora and fauna of this region. Our observations suggest that *T. s. elegans* may play an important role in dispersing seeds of the native *A. glabra*.

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CROCODYLIA

CAIMAN LATIROSTRIS (Broad-snouted Caiman). **BEHAVIOR.** Field studies providing information on parental behavior in *C. latirostris* have focused on nesting and nest protection (Verdade et al. 1992. In Proc. 11th Work Meet. Croc. Spec. Group. IUCN - Switzerland.). Data addressing parental care and other adult-juvenile behaviors are especially scarce. Captive observations exist, but these have the limitation that the captive environment may interfere with the expression of selected behaviors. Thus, we report here on adult-hatchling interactions that may represent anti-predator behavior among wild *C. latirostris* from southeastern Brazil.

Between 18 August and 4 September 1998, we conducted a census and field observations on a small relict group of *C. latirostris* living in Parque Estadual Intervales (Estado de São Paulo), SE Brazil. This group consisted of 2 adults (120–150 cm total length, TL), two subadults (80–100 cm TL) and 16 hatchlings (25–30 cm TL). Observations were made on a small (0.04 ha) lagoon at 315 m elevation (24°23'30"S; 48°29'50"W) created by damming a 1.5-m wide stream flowing from the Serra de Paranapiacaba. Vegetation around the lagoon consisted of herbaceous plants, native bamboo (*Merostachys* sp., Poaceae) and secondary forests (Guix et al. 2002. In Mateos et al. [eds.], *Censuses of Vertebrates in a Brazilian Atlantic Rainforest Area: The Paranapiacaba Fragment*, pp. 141–147. Centre de Recursos de Biodiversitat Animal, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona).

On 25 August around 1130 h, we encountered 8 hatchlings on the lagoon margin. Five were in low vegetation just 10–35 cm above the lagoon edge on logs, another 3 were in the water. When one observer approached this hatchling group to within 1 m, the hatchling closest to the observer began to vocalize. The hatchlings immediately began to vocalize, some jumped into the water and some remained on the lagoon margin. Simultaneously, an adult (> 120 cm) slipped off the lagoon margin, and swam toward the center of the lagoon where it began vocalizing. The remaining hatchlings jumped into the water while vocalizing, and then started swimming towards the adult. During this time, the hatchling that had initiated vocalization remained in the water 0.5 m in front of the observer. While most hatchlings fled toward the adult, we caught this hatchling, whereupon it began to vocalize louder. The adult then put its head out of the water at about a 45° angle with its mouth slightly open and vocalized very loudly for 3–5 seconds. After it stopped and put its head down, the hatchling we had in hand also stopped vocalizing.

On 1 September at 2130 h, upon approaching the lagoon margin from a distance of 3 m, we heard an adult *C. latirostris* vocalize. When we reached the lagoon we saw 5 hatchlings on the edge ca. 2 m away. Upon our appearance, one immediately made a plaintive vocalization, after which we saw 15 hatchlings flee in a

waterward direction, diving and swimming towards the center of the lagoon. Low vegetation had concealed 10 hatchlings that were only noticed as they fled.

On 2 September at 1000 h, as we got to within 4 m of the lagoon, we heard an adult vocalize, but no hatchlings were seen; none may have been present. On 4 other occasions on different nights, when a hatchling was caught by an observer, it vocalized. Although we did not hear adults vocalize in these cases, they always approached observers, getting as close as 4 m in a slow and silent manner. After approach, adults remained immobile floating at the water surface with their heads out, slightly inclined.

Adults never tried to attack or keep us away from hatchlings; adults approaching observers handling hatchlings seemed more intimidating than agonistic. Hatchlings did not always vocalize when captured, nor did adults always necessarily respond when captured hatchlings vocalized. Of 16 observations in which we handled hatchlings, they were silent in 2 (13%) of them.

Many potential predators of hatchlings are potential prey for adult *C. latirostris*. In part because the relationship between adults and hatchlings was unknown (potentially parental or not), hatchling vocalizations and the approach behavior of adults may have alternate interpretations. These alternatives, which may not be mutually exclusive, include the protection of hatchlings from potential predators (see Steel 1989. *Crocodiles*. Christopher Helm, London. 198 pp.) through intimidation or agonistic behavior (when a non parental adult or subadult conspecific approaches hatchlings or at nest) and facilitation of the location of prey when hatchlings vocalize in response to the approach of a potential predator.

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LACERTILIA

AMPHISBAENA ALBA (White-bellied Worm Lizard). **REPRODUCTION.** Scattered reports of amphisbaenian eggs found in nature (Goeldi 1897. *Zool. Jahrb. [Syst.]* 10:640–676; Jared et al. 1997. *Herpetol. Rev.* 28:44–45) or in the oviducts of gravid females exist (Barros-Filho and Valverde 1996. *Sitientibus* 14:57–58), but amphisbaenian reproduction remains very poorly known (cf. Gans 1962. *Amer. Mus. Novit.* 2105:1–31). As far as known, the eggs of *Amphisbaena alba* are laid in ant nests (Riley et al. 1985. *Herpetol. Rev.* 16:38–43; Azevedo-Ramos and Moutinho 1994. *Entomol. News* 105:183–184), but egg-laying behavior is undescribed. Here, we provide the first data on oviposition behavior in *A. alba* based on a female collected in southeastern Brazil.

At 0700 h on 5 September 1997, during a faunal rescue for Hy-