IGUANAS OF THE WORLD
Family Iguanidae
Subfamily Iguaninae

Checklist compiled by John B. Iverson and based primarily on Etheridge (1982) and Hollingsworth (2004). Content: Nine living genera and 42 living species are currently recognized; however, undescribed species are known to exist (e.g., see Zarza et al. 2008; Malone and Davis 2004; Gentile et al. 2009). Comment: This assemblage of relatively large, mostly herbivorous iguanas has long been recognized as being monophyletic (all derived from a single common ancestor). As such, most scientists have classified the group in the subfamily Iguaninae of the family Iguanidae (Schulte et al. 2003; Pough et al. 2004; Vitt and Caldwell 2009), although some recent authors (e.g., Frost et al. 2001; Hollingsworth 1998, 2004; Conrad 2008) have elevated the iguanas to full family status. Distribution: New World tropics and subtropics including the West Indies and Galápagos Islands, and the Fiji-Tonga Islands. Comment: Considerable controversy surrounds the phylogenetic relationships among the genera in this family (e.g., see Hollingsworth 2004).

Amblyrhynchus Bell [Galápagos Marine Iguanas]


Amblyrhynchus cristatus Bell [Galápagos Marine Iguana]


Amblyrhynchus cristatus cristatus Bell [Fernandina Marine Iguana]


Amblyrhynchus cristatus albermarlensis Eibl-Eibesfeldt [Isabella Marine Iguana]


Amblyrhynchus cristatus hassi Eibl-Eibesfeldt [Santa Cruz Marine Iguana]

*Amblyrhynchus cristatus mertensi* Eibl-Eibesfeldt [San Cristóbal Marine Iguana]


*Amblyrhynchus cristatus nanus* Garman [Genovesa Marine Iguana]


*Amblyrhynchus cristatus sielmanni* Eibl-Eibesfeldt [Pinta Marine Iguana]


*Amblyrhynchus cristatus venustissimus* Eibl-Eibesfeldt [Española Marine Iguana.]


*Brachylophus* Cuvier [Fiji Iguana]


Original name: *Brachylophus bulabula* Fisher, Harlow, Edwards, and Keogh in: Keogh, Edwards, Fisher, and Harlow 2008, Phil. Trans. Royal Soc. B. 363(1508):3419. Holotype: CAS 172524. Type locality: “Navuloa Village, Ovalau Island, Republic of Fiji (17°42′05.95″ S, 178°45′42.12″ E)”. Distribution: Larger northwestern islands of the Viti Group of Fijian islands, including at least Ovalau, Gau, Kadavu, and Vit Levu. Comment: Although the recent description of this species clarifies the taxonomy in this genus, the correct identification of the species occurring on many islands is not yet certain. This is complicated by introductions of these iguanas onto non-native islands.

**Brachylophus fasciatus** (Brongnart) [Lau Banded Iguana]


**Brachylophus vitiensis** Gibbons [Fijian Crested Iguana]

Original name: *Brachylophus vitiensis* Gibbons 1981, J. Herpet. 15(3):257. Holotype: MCZ 157192. Type locality: "Yaduataba island (16°50′ S; 178°20′ E), Fiji." Distribution: Fiji Island Group, found on the island of Yadua Taba and (presumably) the northern islands of the Yasawa group.

**Cachryx** Cope [Yucatán Spiny-tailed Iguanas]


**Cachryx alfredschmidti** (Köhler) [Campeche Spiny-tailed Iguana]


**Cachryx defensor** Cope [Yucatán Spiny-tailed Iguana]

**Conolophus** Fitzinger [Galápagos Land Iguanas]

Original name: *Hypsilophus* (*Conolophus*) Fitzinger 1843, Syst. Rept., Wien 1:55. Type species (by original designation) *Amblyrinchus Demarlii* Duméril and Bibron 1837 = *Amblyrhynchus subcristatus* Gray 1831. Distribution: Galápagos Islands. Comment: Tsika et al. (2008) and Gentile et al. (2009) have demonstrated that this genus includes five evolutionarily significant units, only three of which have been described.

**Conolophus marthae** Gentile and Snell [Galápagos Pink Land Iguana]


**Conolophus pallidus** Heller [Santa Fe Island Iguana]


**Conolophus subcristatus** (Gray) [Galápagos Land Iguana]

Original name: *Amblyrhynchus* (*lyrhynchus*) *subcristatus* Gray 1831, Zool. Misc., London 1831:6. Type: not located. Type locality: "Galápagos?". Distribution: Galápagos Archipelago, including the islands of Santiago (= James), Santa Cruz (= Indefatigable), Isabela (= Albemarle), Fernandina (= Narborough), Baltra (= South Seymour), and Rábida (= Jervis). Comment: Tsika et al. (2008) and Gentile et al. (2009) have reported molecular evidence suggesting that some populations of *C. subcristatus* may deserve species status. However, the type locality of *C. subcristatus* is vague ("Galápagos?"); Gray 1831), and the holotype has not been located. Hence, it is not yet clear to which island the name *subcristatus* should be applied. Resolution of this problem may require the designation of a neotype (if the type cannot be found at the BMNH) and a simultaneous restriction of the type locality.

**Ctenosaura** Wiegmann [Mesoamerican Spiny-tailed Iguanas]


**Ctenosaura acanthura** (Shaw) [Eastern Spiny-tailed Iguana]
Original name: *Lacerta Acanthura* Shaw 1802, Gen. Zool., London 3(1):216. Holotype: BMNH XXII.20.a (Bailey 1928) = BMNH RR 1946.8.30.19 (Etheridge 1982). Type locality: not given. Designated type localities: California (Boulenger, 1885), in error (Smith and Taylor 1950); Mexico (Bailey 1928); Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico (Bailey 1928), inappropriate restriction (de Queiroz 1995). Distribution: Lowlands of eastern Mexico, from Tamaulipas southward to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in southeastern Veracruz and eastern Oaxaca. Comment: Zarza et al. (2008) suggested that this taxon should be relegated to a subspecies of *C. pectinata* (see Comment under that species).

*Ctenosaura bakeri* Stejneger [Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana]


*Ctenosaura clarki* Bailey [Michoacan Spiny-tailed Iguana]


*Ctenosaura conspicuosa* Dickerson [San Esteban Spiny-tailed Iguana]


*Ctenosaura flavidorsalis* Köhler and Klemmer [Yellow-backed Spiny-tailed Iguana]


*Ctenosaura hemilopha* (Cope) [Baja California Spiny-tailed Iguana]

California, Mexico" [USNM 69489] (Cochran 1961; de Queiroz 1995). Distribution: Baja California Sur, Mexico, from the vicinity of Loreto southward through the Cape Region, and Isla Cerralvo. Comment: As many as three subspecies have been recognized previously, but were synonymized by Grismer (1999).

**Ctenosaura macrolopha** Smith [Sonoran Spiny-tailed Iguana]

Original name: *Ctenosaura hemilopha macrolopha* Smith 1972, Great Basin Nat. 32(2):104. Holotype: FMNH 108705. Type locality: "La Posada, San Carlos Bay, 10 mi NW Guaymas, Sonora." Distribution: Northwestern Mexico, from the vicinity of Hermosillo, Sonora, southward through the northern third of Sinaloa, and extreme western Chihuahua. Comment: This species was elevated from subspecific rank within *Ctenosaura hemilopha* by Grismer (1999).

**Ctenosaura melanosterna** Buckley and Axtell [Black-chested Spiny-tailed Iguana]


**Ctenosaura nolascensis** Smith [San Pedro Nolasco Spiny-tailed Iguana]


**Ctenosaura oaxacana** Köhler and Hasbun [Oaxaca Spiny-tailed Iguana]


**Ctenosaura oedirhina** de Queiroz [Roatán Spiny-tailed Iguana]

Original name: *Ctenosaura oedirhina* de Queiroz 1987, Copeia 1987(4):892. Holotype: UF 28532. Type locality: "approx. 4.8 km (converted from 3 miles) west of Roatán on the path to Flowers Bay, Isla de Roatán, Departamento de las Islas de la Bahía, Honduras." Distribution: Isla de Roatán and Isla de Santa Elena, Islas de la Bahía, Honduras.

**Ctenosaura palearis** Stejneger [Paleate Spiny-tailed Iguana]

**Ctenosaura pectinata** (Wiegmann) [Pacific or Western Spiny-tailed Iguana]

Original name: *Cyclura pectinata* Wiegmann 1834, Herpetol. Mexicana, Berlin: 42. Syntypes: ZMB 574-575 (Taylor 1969; de Queiroz 1995). Type locality: "Mexico" (de Queiroz 1995). Restricted type locality: Colima, Colima, Mexico (Bailey 1928); inappropriate restriction (de Queiroz 1995). Distribution: Western Mexico from north of Culican in Sinaloa southward to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in southeastern Oaxaca, including Isla Isabela and Islas de las Tres Marías, Nayarit. Comment: Zarza et al. (2008) have recently demonstrated that *C. pectinata* comprises at least eight distinct lineages that deserve taxonomic designation. They include: "North A" (Sinaloa and Nayarit; for which the name *brachylophus* is available); "North B" (coastal Southern Nayarit); "North C" (coastal northwestern Jalisco); "Colima" (for which the name *brevirostris* may be available); "Balsas" (Michoacán); "Guerrero" (coastal Guerrero); "Oaxaca" (coastal southwestern Oaxaca); and "South" (eastern Oaxaca north to Tamaulipas, including *C. acanthura*). Until specific taxonomic designations are made, we tentatively recognize *C. acanthura* and *C. pectinata* as full species.

**Ctenosaura quinquecarinata** (Gray) [Five-keeled Spiny-tailed Iguana]


**Ctenosaura similis** (Gray) [Central American Spiny-tailed Iguana or Black Iguana]

Original name: *Iguana (Ctenosaura) Similis* Gray 1831, in Griffiths, Cuvier Anim. Kingd., London 9:38. Type: Mus. [of Mr.] Bell [number not given] (de Queiroz 1995); not located (Bailey 1928). Type locality: not given. Designated type locality: "Tela, Honduras, Central America" (Bailey 1928), inappropriate restriction (de Queiroz 1995). Distribution: From the Isthmus de Tehuantepec southward through Central America on both versants to Panamá City and Colón, Panamá.

**Cyclura** Harlan [Rock or Ground Iguanas]


**Cyclura carinata** Harlan [Turks and Caicos Rock Iguana]
Original name: *Cyclura carinata* Harlan 1824, J. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia 4:250. Type: not located (Etheridge 1982). Type locality: "Turk's Island." Distribution: Turks and Caicos Islands and Booby Cay off Mayaguana in the Bahamas. Comment: *Cyclura carinata bartschi* Cochran 1931 (from Booby Cay off Mayaguana in the Bahamas) was recently synonymized with the nominate subspecies (Bryan et al. 2007). However, molecular work in progress (Stephen, Welch, Gerber, and Pasachnik, unpublished) suggests that populations on the western cays of the Caicos are genetically different from other populations.

*Cyclura collei* Gray [Jamaican Rock Iguana]


*Cyclura cornuta* (Bonnaterre) [Rhinoceros Iguana]

Original name: *Lacerta Cornuta* Bonnaterre 1789, Tab. Encycl. Méth. Règ. Nat., Erpét., Paris: 40. Type: not located (Etheridge 1982). Type locality: "Sainte-Domingue…dans les mornes de l'Hôpital, entre L'Artibonite and les Gonaves." Distribution: Hispaniola, including Isla Beata, Isla Saona, Ile de la Gonave, Ile de la Petite Gonave, Ile Grande Cayemite, and Ile de la Tortue, and Mona Island. Comment: Most authors have included *C. stejnegeri* and the extinct *C. onchiopis* as subspecies of *Cyclura cornuta*, but Powell (1999), Powell and Glor (2000), and Glor et al. (2000) recommended the specific status of all three. However, Malone et al. (2000) demonstrated little genetic distance between *cornuta* and *stejnegeri* and relegated them to subspecies status.

*Cyclura cornuta cornuta* (Bonnaterre) [Rhinoceros Iguana]


*Cyclura cornuta stejnegeri* Barbour and Noble [Mona Island Iguana]


*Cyclura cychlura* (Cuvier) [Bahaman Rock Iguana]


*Cyclura cychlura cychlura* (Cuvier) [Andros Island Iguana]
Original name: *Cyclura cyclura cyclura* (Cuvier). See species account. Distribution: Andros Island.

*Cyclura cyclura inornata* Barbour and Noble [Allen Cays Rock Iguana]


*Cyclura cyclura figginsi* Barbour [Exuma Rock Iguana]


*Cyclura lewisi* Grant [Grand Cayman Blue Iguana]


*Cyclura nubila* Gray [Western Antillean Rock Iguana]


*Cyclura nubila nubila* Gray [Cuban Rock Iguana]

Original name: *Cyclura nubila nubila* Gray. See species account. Distribution: Cuba

*Cyclura nubila caymanensis* Barbour and Noble [Sister Isles Rock Iguana]


*Cyclura pinguis* Barbour [Anegada Rock Iguana]

**Cyclura ricordii** (Duméril and Bibron) [Ricord's Rock Iguana]


**Cyclura rileyi** Stejneger [Eastern Bahaman Rock Iguana]


*Cyclura rileyi rileyi* Stejneger [San Salvador Rock Iguana]

Original name: *Cyclura rileyi rileyi* Stejneger. See species account. Distribution: San Salvador and nearby islands, Bahamas.

*Cyclura rileyi cristata* Schmidt [White Cay Rock Iguana]


*Cyclura rileyi nuchalis* Barbour and Noble [Acklins Rock Iguana]


**Dipsosaurus** Hallowell [Desert Iguanas]


**Dipsosaurus catalinensis** Van Denburgh [Santa Catalina Island Desert Iguana]

Mexico. Distribution: Isla Santa Catalina, Baja California Sur, Mexico. Comment: This species was elevated from subspecies rank within *D. dorsalis* by Grismer (1999).

**Dipsosaurus dorsalis** (Baird and Girard) [Desert Iguana]


**Dipsosaurus dorsalis dorsalis** (Baird and Girard) [Northern Desert Iguana]

Original name: *Crotaphytus dorsalis* Baird and Girard. See species account. Distribution: Southwestern United States to Baja California.

**Dipsosaurus dorsalis sonoriensis** Allen [Sonoran Desert Iguana]


**Iguana** Laurenti [Green Iguanas]


**Iguana delicatissima** Laurenti [Lesser Antillean Iguana]


**Iguana iguana** (Linnaeus) [Green Iguana]
Original name: *Lacerta iguana* Linnaeus 1758, Syst. Nat., Ed. 10, Stockholm 1:206. Syntypes: NHRM [one specimen, no number given]; ZMUU [one specimen, no number given] (Lönnberg, 1896; Andersson 1900; Hoogmoed 1973; de Queiroz 1995). Type locality: "Indiis." Restricted type locality: "island of Terre de Haut, Les Iles des Saintes, Département de la Guadeloupe, French West Indies" (Lazell 1973), inappropriate restriction (de Queiroz 1995); "confluence of the Cottica River and Perica Creek, Surinam" (Hoogmoed 1973). Distribution: Northern México, from Sinaloa and Veracruz, southward through Central America and into northeastern South America to the Tropic of Capricorn in Paraguay and southeastern Brazil. The species also occurs on numerous islands, including Cozumel, Utila, Roatán, Guanaja, Corn, Providencia, San Andres, Aruba, Trinidad, Tobago, and others in the Lesser Antilles. Comment: Preliminary data (e.g., Malone and Davis 2004) suggest that this taxon is polytypic and that new taxa will eventually be described.

**Sauromalus** Duméril [Chuckwallas]


**Sauromalus ater** Duméril [Common Chuckwalla]

Original name: *Sauromalus ater* Duméril 1856, Arch. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat., Paris 8:536. Holotype: MNHN 813. Type locality: not given. Designated type locality: "one of the following islands in the Gulf of California: Espiritu Santo, Isla Partida, San Marcos, San Diego, Santa Cruz, or San Francisco" (Shaw 1945); restricted to "Espiritu Santo Island" (Smith and Taylor 1950), and "southern coastal Sonora" (Hollingsworth 1998; but see Montanucci 2000). Distribution: Southwestern United States (in southern Nevada, southwestern Utah, southeastern California, and western Arizona), southward to northwestern Mexico (in western Sonora), the peninsula of Baja California, and the following islands in the Gulf of California: Ballena, Danzante, El Coyote, Espiritu Santo, Gallo, Partida Sur, San Cosme, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Marcos, Santa Cruz, Tiburon, and Willard. Comment: Hollingsworth (1998) synonymized the names *Sauromalus ater* and *S. obesus*, and applied the name *ater* to the species. Although the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) was petitioned to suppress the name *ater* in favor of *obesus*, that petition was rejected by the ICZN. Hollingsworth (1998) also synonymized all subspecies.

**Sauromalus hispidus** Stejneger [Angel Island Chuckwalla]

**Sauromalus klauberi**  Shaw [Klauber's Chuckwalla]


**Sauromalus slevini**  Van Denburgh [Slevin's Chuckwalla]


**Sauromalus varius**  Dickerson [San Esteban Chuckwalla]


**LITERATURE CITED**


