



Striped iguana

(*Iguana iguana*)

The Striped iguana originated in the Americas and was introduced in the 1800s to Guadeloupe, in 1960 to Martinique and in 1990 to Saint-Martin. According to INPN, they have also been introduced to Saint-Barthélemy.

Description

- A lizard that can grow up to two metres long (including the tail)
- Weight that ranges generally from 0.5 to 2 kg (5 kg maximum)
- Colour that can vary from green to grey, with reddish tinges in some cases. Juveniles are bright green, but darken with age. Wide stripes on the tail
- Males are larger and heavier than females and have larger femoral pores
- Feet with five clawed toes that enable the animals to climb trees
- Tail two to three times longer than the body. Can grow back if cut. Highly lacerating, can be used as a whip in defence if the animal feels threatened
- Dorsal spines at the back of the head can reach more than 15 cm in length
- Under the jaw, a flap of skin called a dewlap, with spines along the edge, plays an important role in communication

Ecology and reproduction in its original environment

- Habitat is essentially arboreal, but can vary widely from coastal environments and mangroves to dry forests and wet tropical forests, at altitudes ranging from sea level to 1 000 metres
- A general herbivore, feeds essentially on leaves, fruit and flowers
- Sexual maturity is reached at three years
- Mating at the start of the dry season (March-April), egg laying in April-May, birth in August-September at the start of the wet season when juveniles can benefit (survive) due to the greater food supply. Females dig nests in various types of soil to a depth of 10 cm to 1 metre. They lay 35 eggs on average
- The animals can live grouped or dispersed, depending on the environment

Documentation

- Biological invasions in the French Caribbean. Status report and current knowledge. (2013). Report by the Martinique and Guadeloupe Environmental Directorate. 88 pages. (In French)
- Angin B., 2018. Action plan against the green iguana (*Iguana iguana*) in the French Caribbean 2019-2023. ONCFS and Ardops Environnement. 71pp. (In French)
- <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/28477>
- https://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/cd_nom/350756

Classification

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|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Order | Squamate |
| Family | <i>Iguanidae</i> |
| Genus | <i>Iguana</i> |
| Species | <i>I. iguana</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) |

