**Project Update: November 2016** 

## Activities already accomplished for the period:

- News: Presentation entitled "American or Cuban-American crocodile? Phylogenetic relationships of Cuban *Crocodylus* and molecular evidence for a cryptic species" was awarded at the International Workshop hold at the University of Informatics Sciences (Acronym in Spanish, UCI) <a href="http://www.uci.cu/taller-de-bioinformatica-sobre-evolucion-viral-y-epidemiologia-molecular-en-la-uci-0">http://www.uci.cu/taller-de-bioinformatica-sobre-evolucion-viral-y-epidemiologia-molecular-en-la-uci-0</a>
- News: Postgraduate student Jessica Castellanos Labarcena was interviewed at the University of Informatics Sciences to describe the most recent results generated under the project "Conservation Genetics and Molecular Systematics of Cuban Crocodylus"
- Paper in preparation on Mitogenomics for Conservation of the Cuban Crocodylus to be submitted to the special issue of the Bulletin of Marine Science on Cuban Marine Ecology and Conservation.
- Paper published in the Journal Amphibia-Reptilia entitled: "Genetic evidence for multiple paternity in the critically endangered Cuban crocodile (Crocodylus rhombifer)"
- News: Coverage of the main genetic work completed so far with support of the Rufford Foundation by the prestigious journal Nature: <a href="http://www.nature.com/news/cuban-crocodiles-pose-conservation-conundrum-1.20691">http://www.nature.com/news/cuban-crocodiles-pose-conservation-conundrum-1.20691</a>
- Field trip to Zapata Swamp for population monitoring of Cuban crocodiles and interaction with local community, jointly with specialists of the National Enterprise for the Protection of Flora and Fauna in Cuba.
- Sample collection for genetic analysis.



Posters presented at the International Workshop on Molecular Evolution hold at the University of Informatics Sciences, Cuba.



Left: Cuban crocodile (*Crocodylus rhombifer*) in the wild Zapata Swamp. Right: Student Jessica Castellanos Labarcena presenting her results related to the Mitogenomics for Conservation of the Cuban *Crocodylus* at the scientific forum for students in the University of Havana.