

## Project Update: March 2011

From December 2010 to February 2011, one hundred and thirteen American crocodiles were observed during spotlight and daylight surveys of a 72.42 km route (1.56 crocodiles/km) through coastal, mangrove, and lagoon habitats in Ambergris Caye, Belize. Of these, 32 (28.3%) were classified as 'eye-shine only,' and the remaining 81 (71.7%) were classified as hatchlings (20; 24.7%), juveniles (7; 8.6%), sub-adults (26; 32.1%), and adults (28; 34.6%). Out of the twenty-three tagged crocodiles, 12 (52.2%) were males and 11 (47.8%) were females. One *Crocodylus acutus* captured exhibited intermittent ventral scutes post cloacal. While this lends to the possibility hybridization, DNA testing is needed for confirmation. Another *C. acutus* was captured with a 'marbled eye.' The crocodile's vision did not appear impaired. A flyover of the entire island courtesy of LightHawk enabled surveying of critical wetland habitats otherwise inaccessible. While much of the island is undeveloped, suitable crocodile habitat appears to be limited.

*Interview with Vince and Cherie Rose of ACES after the arson of ACES/American Crocodile Education Sanctuary.*

So, as you work online this morning, be sure to tune into the one hour croc log podcast and learn about Crocodilians and hear the latest croc news with Croc Expert Adam Britton and Wildlife Photographer Brandon Sideleau!

Click Link: <http://crocodilian.blogspot.com/2011/03/croclog-podcast-episode-4.html>



Left: *C. acutus* eye coloration abnormality. Right: Intermittent scutes found on a *C. acutus*.