

## Discussion

Present finding of crocodile nest for successive two years indicate that crocodile nesting site is relatively undisturbed even though farmers visit the river banks regularly for their routine work. The crocodile might have selected this site for nesting because of the type of soil. The river Kadavi and its both banks have clay type of soil with mixture of sand, clay and gravel, which is useful in making hole in it. Also the temperature of this area in summer ranges between 31 to 40°C which is suitable for incubation of crocodile eggs. Present location of nesting is a good source of food in the form of fingerlings to the young ones of crocodiles. Thus adequate food and suitable climatic conditions might be also the reason behind selection of this site by crocodiles. The egg laying and incubation was recorded in the summer months. This is in contrast to the observations made by Joanen (1969) in *A. mississippiensis*. It indicates that this species is still recovering. The incubation period of about 68 to 90 days is similarly recorded by Webb (1983) for *C. johnstoni*.

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## Size of Caimans Killed by Humans at a Hydroelectric Dam in the Madeira River, Brazilian Amazon

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### Abstract

Hydroelectric dams change river shorelines and often force caimans into closer contact with people. In this study, I recorded crocodilians killed by humans in the newly flooded Santo Antônio dam, Madeira River, Amazon. From September 2010 to May 2013, I recorded floating dead caimans on the banks of the Madeira River and its tributaries. The reservoir area of UHE Santo Antônio (8° 47' S, 63° 57' W), Madeira River, extends 100 km, and was formed in November 2011. Each dead caiman was inspected to determine cause of death based on physical evidence, such as bullet wounds or the presence of a hook. The length of the head (HL cm) of dead individuals was measured using a measuring tape, and this measure used to estimate snout-vent length (SVL cm). Over the period of 2 years, I encountered 42 dead *Melanosuchus niger*, with estimated SVL (cm) between 58.6 and 247.0 cm, 6 *Caiman yacare* between 68.4 and 89.6 cm SVL, 3 *Paleosuchus palpebrosus* between 74.9 and 82.4 cm SVL, and 3 *P. trigonatus* between 36.0 and 78.1 cm SVL. The caimans had been killed by gunshots (36), hooks (9), water turbulence near the dam walls (4) and unidentified causes (5). In this latter study, 52% of the killed *M. niger* individuals had an estimated total length of more than 4.0 m (ie SVL>2.0 m). In conclusion, with regard to the region of the Madeira River, the conflict between humans and crocodilians is focused on large individuals of *M. niger*.