

THE COMMON GREEN IGUANA, *IGUANA IGUANA* (LINNAEUS, 1758) AS A FRUIT EATER OF “TAPEREBÁ” (*SPONDIAS MOMBIN* L.) IN THE EASTERN AMAZONIA

LA IGUANA VERDE COMÚN, *IGUANA IGUANA* (LINNAEUS, 1758) COMO CONSUMIDOR DE LA FRUTA DE “TAPEREBÁ” (*SPONDIAS MOMBIN* L.) EN EL ESTE DE LA AMAZONIA

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Resumen.— En esta nota anecdótica, informamos sobre el consumo de pulpa de taperebá (*Spondias mombin* L.) por *Iguana iguana* en el este de la Amazonía.

Palabras clave.— Iguanidae, hábitos alimenticios, herbívoros.

Abstract.— In this anecdotal note, we report on *Iguana iguana* consuming a fruit pulp, taperebá (*Spondias mombin* L.), in eastern Amazon.

Key words.— Iguanidae, feeding habits, herbivorous.

Iguana iguana (Linnaeus, 1758) is a widespread arboreal reptile found in Brazil in all vegetation formations, mainly in environments with tree and shrub vegetation, where they usually seen thermoregulating or resting on tree branches (Oliveira & Castro, 2017; Bock et al., 2020). *Iguana iguana* is considered herbivorous (Van Devender, 1982); however, there are records of occasional reports of consuming insects (Savage, 2002), snails (Townsend et al., 2005), bird eggs (Schwartz & Henderson, 1991), bird carcasses (Morales-Mávil & González-Solórzano, 2020) and mammal carrion (Loftin & Tyson, 1965). Here, we report on *I. iguana* consuming a fruit pulp, taperebá (*Spondias mombin* L.), in the eastern Amazon.

At 1037 h on 01 April 2023, an adult individual of *Iguana iguana* was observed feeding on *Spondias mombin* L. from the floor of the Museu Sacaca, Macapá municipality, Amapá state, North of Brazil (0.0289°N, 51.0680°W, WGS84). The area is a cultural and scientific institution located within the urban area that brings together a true collection of the way of life of indigenous and riverside peoples (Governo do Estado do Amapá, 2023). We observed the individual for three minutes, and during that time

span, the iguana ingested two fruit pulps popularly known as “taperebá” (Fig. 1). The taperebá (*Spondias mombin* L.) is a fruitful species originating in tropical America, common in the Amazon region, where it occurs in the wild state, however in the study area it found in disturbed of vegetation. Fruit pulp presents high economic potential and growing demand in Brazil’s North and Northeast regions (Sacramento & Souza, 2009).

Despite since 71% of all lizard families, such as Scincidae, Gekkonidae, and Anolidae, including some frugivorous members, other lizards families, such as Iguanidae, present a high percentage of frugivorous species (Valido & Olesen, 2019). Although few records of herbivory are available in the literature (Van Devender, 1982; Swanson, 2004), the consumption of the wild plum (*Spondias mombin*) has already been registered in individuals of *I. iguana* dissected in Panama (Swanson, 2004). To the best of my knowledge, this is the first record of pulp fruit *Spondias mombin* L. and feeding behavior for *I. iguana* in the eastern Amazon. Our observations contribute to a more complete view of the *I. iguana*’s natural history.



Figura 1. *Iguana iguana* alimentándose de pulpa de fruta, taperebá (*Spondias mombin* L.) en el este de la Amazonia. Foto: Carlos E. Costa-Campos.

Figure 1. *Iguana iguana* feeding on a fruit pulp, taperebá (*Spondias mombin* L.), in the eastern Amazon. Photo: Carlos E. Costa-Campos.

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