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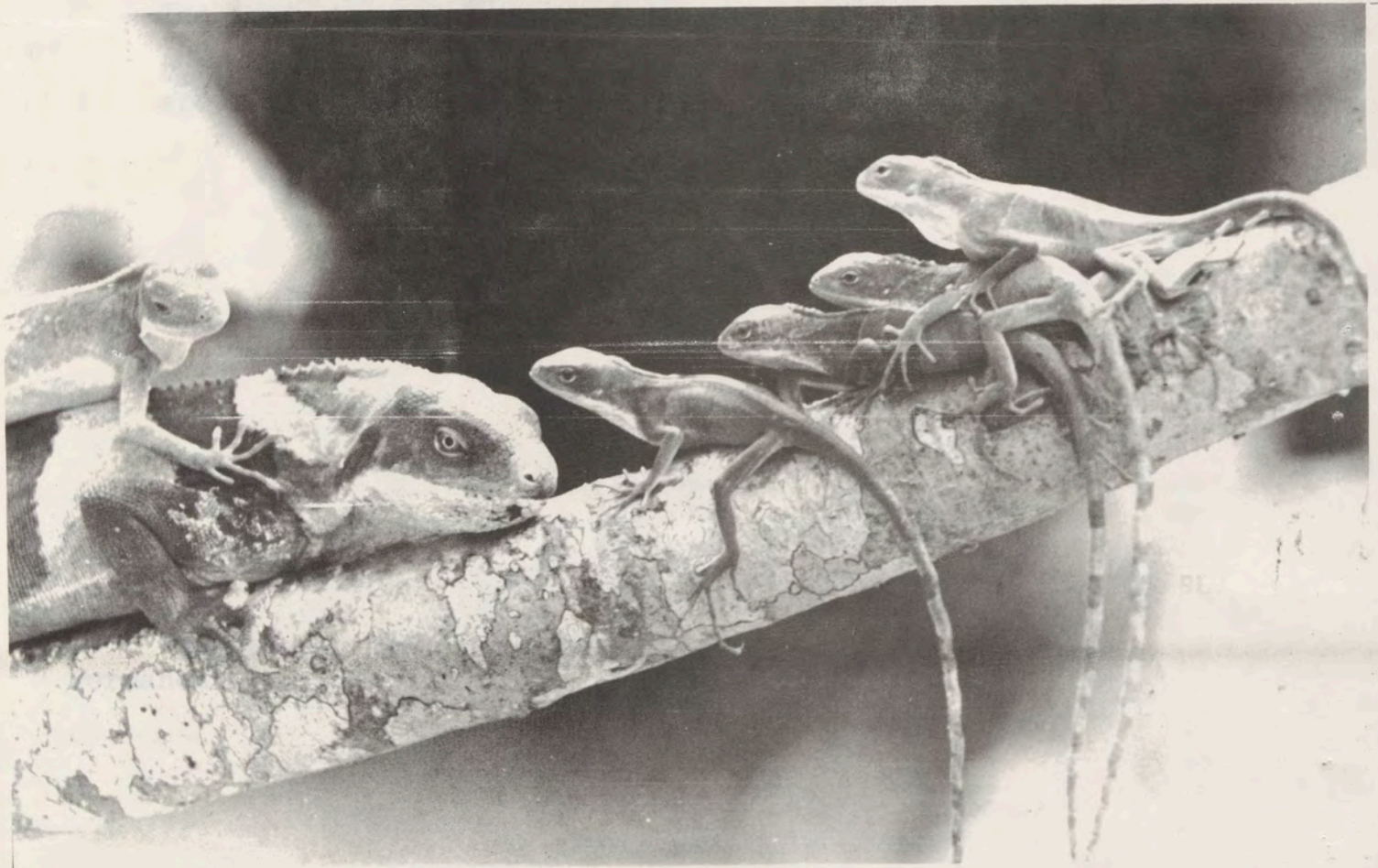
NATIONAL TRUST

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THIS MONTHS COVER

Mrs. Ivy Watkins at Orchid Island is the only person in Fiji known to have successfully bred and reared the unusual Banded Iguana in captivity. Her photograph displays an adult male (striped) with a year old female on her back. She was the result of the first litter of eggs hatched at Orchid Island. The four younger Iguanas facing the male are from this years litter of eggs. The work accomplished by Mrs. Watkins has enabled all of us to know more about this endemic species of reptile.

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THE FIJI IGUANA (BRACHYLOPUS FASCIATUS)

Class: Reptilia.
Order: Squamata .
Infra Order: Iguania.
Sub-order: Lacertilia,
Family: Iguanidae.
Genus et species: (Brachylopus fasciatus.

The infra order Iguania is the oldest group of the Lacertilia including Iguanas and Agamas, dated back to the Cretaceous or Jurassic period (120,000, 000 years ago). *Brachylopus fasciatus* is one of the 6 genera of the family Iguanidae and is only found in Fiji and Tonga.

It has taken us 7 years to collect 2 pairs of the Fiji Iguana, and only when we had the second male did the first pair show signs of mating. In February 1977 three eggs were laid and hatched 5 months later. The female buries the eggs about 6 inches deep in a burrow, covers the hole with soil and firms it by banging it down with her head. She takes no further part in the hatching of the eggs or the care of the young. A further four eggs were laid, by the second female, in December, 1977, and hatched in June of this year, adding 4 males to our collection. We have 3 eggs due to hatch any day and both females are again expecting eggs. This has been apparent for at least 5 months. It is not known for how long they carry the eggs.

Our biggest problem is to convince people living in the rural areas that the Iguana is harmless and every effort is made to inform school children that there is no need to kill it.

Ivy Watkins
Orchid Island.

The Banded Iguana is a freak from the zoogeographer's point of view. It is found only in Fiji. Aside from the very close Tongan Iguana, the only other lizards at all similar to the Banded Iguana are some 10,000 km away in South America.

There is little choice but to accept that ancestors of the Fijian and Tongan Iguanas must have accidentally drifted that distance across the Pacific on a natural raft of vegetation. Such rafts or "floating islands" are not unusual. They are probably washed from shallow lakes, marshes, or the banks of rivers during flood conditions (Myers, 1949; Darlington, 1957). It certainly is unusual for an animal to survive such a long voyage on one of these rafts. However the only reasonable alternative explanation for the Banded Iguana's existence in Fiji is that it is a "relict" ---an isolated survivor of a group of Iguanas that once would have been widespread in the Indo-Australian region where the rest of Fiji's land animals originated. But no trace of Iguanas has yet been found in this region or the intervening island groups west of Fiji. Moreover there is a growing evidence that the Banded Iguana is a surprisingly hardy and versatile reptile, hardly typical of relict species which tend to have restrictive ecological requirements.

Banded Iguanas experiencing conditions of unaccustomed cold in captivity in Sydney, Australia, stay alive by actively seeking out warm spots much more rapidly than tropical Australian lizards do when subjected to similar conditions (Cogger, pers. com.).

Banded Iguanas are omnivorous. The red petals of hibiscus flowers are a favourite food of those kept in captivity, but they also readily eat cockroaches, "mealworms" soft fruit, green hibiscus leaves and even dried up leaves. Such a broad diet might have enabled them to survive a long ocean voyage, but would not explain why they or their relatives would have become extinct on the Solomon Islands or the New Herbrides had they ever existed on those islands.

Banded Iguanas have tenaciously survived in Fiji despite persecution by people and probably predation by introduced mongooses and rats. Although Banded Iguanas are arboreal and their camouflaging coloration gives them some protection in trees, the female must descend to the ground and spend some time there searching for a suitable site to dig a hole and lay her three to five eggs (Cahill, 1970; Cogger, 1974). She then conceals the eggs by covering them with soil which she packs with her snout, but both eggs and hatching Iguanas must still be somewhat vulnerable to ground-dwelling predators which readily dig, such as the mongoose, the Norway Rat and the Wild pig.

Since no systematic population studies have been done. It is difficult to tell if the Banded Iguana is now slipping towards extinction or if it is holding its own against all odds. Various reports suggest that its population has been declining quite rapidly since the early 1900's (Loveridge, 1946, Bustard, 1970). However within a period of five months in 1976-1977 at least three Banded Iguanas were found in the city of Suva and its suburbs. It is possible that these escaped from captivity in Suva.

Little is definitely known about the habitat requirements of the Banded Iguanas. They have been found in the mangrove swamps, coastal forest and interior forest as well as suburban areas. They are widely distributed within the Fiji Group, being found on all the main islands and on a number of the smaller and more remote islands of the Lau (Eastern) Group, including Aiwa and Kanacia.

The Tongan Iguana and the Banded Iguana are very similar and were widely thought to be the same species until 1970 when Avery and Tanner noted small differences in the shape of the skull and the number of scales. They considered these differences enough for the Tongan Iguana to be described as a separate species which they named Brachylophus brevicephalus.

In both the Tongan and the Banded Iguana, females lack the light blueish-grey bands that characterize the males. Females are almost uniformly green sometimes with light flecks which are generally inconspicuous. The shade of green in both males and females darkens rapidly when the Iguana is upset or exposed to sunlight .

In males the change to dark green is also closely associated with aggression and rivalry for the attention of females. Males appear to be strongly territorial. When confined together in a cage with females, males may fight viciously with each other until a clear dominance hierarchy is established. The dominant male takes on the dark shade of green generally he alone mates with the females (Cogger, 1974).

By R + B Beckon
NATIONAL TRUST FOR FIJI.

OIL AT SEA IN THE THIRD WORLD

by Dr Viktor Sebek - Earthscan Bulletin

In Geneva, the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea has just reconvened. It is to debate, among other things, the prevention of marine pollution. One question that is being asked repeatedly there is what lessons can Third World countries -- many of whom now fully realise that they too have a vested interest in protecting the world's oceans -- learn from the Amoco Cadiz accident?

The Amoco Cadiz, an American-owned tanker, ran onto rocks off Brittany, France, on the night of 16 March 1978. Gradually, its entire cargo of 220,000 tons of crude oil leaked into the sea. France, despite its vast resources, special contingency plans against oil pollution, and aid from the UK and the Netherlands, failed to cope with the serious pollution.

Marine pollution can have far-reaching effects on those countries which happen to lie along important tanker routes, and are intensively developing their tourist and fishing industries. Chile, Brazil and Argentina, and the Caribbean; Ivory Coast, Ghana and Nigeria in west Africa; Tanzania and Kenya in East Africa; Thailand and India in Asia, are all at risk from tanker accidents.

Large sectors of the Nigerian and Ghanaian coasts were severely polluted by oil tankers which increasingly took to the Cape of Good Hope route after the closure of the Suez Canal in 1974. These states made representations to the UN-linked Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organisation.

The current international rules on compensation for oil pollution damage are totally inadequate. Unlike France, most developing countries cannot afford to compensate all the victims of a pollution disaster from government funds. An oil spill in the Third World put at risk the entire livelihood of many thousands of poor fishermen.

Unfortunately, at most international conferences which regulate shipping matters, developing countries often find themselves playing the role of pawns in a diplomatic vote-catching chess game.

Developing countries are unable to subject to critical assessment the data circulated by the interest groups in the developed states. Highly complex technical issues are involved, and independent studies are not available, so developing countries can neither be sure of the consequences of a particular vote on the reduction of marine pollution, nor estimate how much a particular scheme would cost them.

The transfer of marine pollution-control technology is another thorny issue. IMCO, through its regional advisers in Africa, Asia and Latin America, is making know-how available to developing countries. However, the actual anti-pollution devices can be too costly for many developing countries to afford. Even the rich Arab Gulf States, although they face chronic pollution, have not yet built the expensive on-shore facilities for receiving and processing the oily discharges of tankers.

The new law of the sea which is currently being developed at the Geneva conference can certainly set the right framework within which pollution control measures can be effectively implemented. For example, the proposed rules which enable developing coastal states to adopt, with the approval of international organisations, stringent pollution standards in especially vulnerable areas of their 200 mile exclusive economic zone, could be tightened up to ensure quick implementation.

In the past, major improvements in marine pollution control law have taken place only after a disaster. If the Amoco Cadiz incident can help to tighten up the present law, taking Third World interests into proper account, then perhaps some good will have come out of it.....

"ECODEVELOPMENT"

"Ecodevelopment", a term initiated by Mr. Maurice Strong, first director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to describe ecologically sound development - development that supports a country's cultures and societies instead of destroying them through the development process. It means development of a locality taking into account the fullest sustainable advantage of its physical, biological and cultural resources.

Ecodevelopment recognizes that the solutions to the development problems of today should not become the problems of tomorrow. Thus, the consequences of proposed actions are assessed, the form and rate of development determined by the people most affected by them, and full advantage is taken of the knowledge and technical expertise of the local people.

The National Trust for Fiji is preparing an action plan for the establishment of a national park and reserve system in Fiji, and will identify areas for eco-development in the process. Persons living in or near areas where parks might be established will be fully consulted beforehand, and their desires and hopes for the future taken into consideration before any actions are taken that might affect them. An example of eco-development in action!

NATIONAL TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed is \$1.00 (Adult); \$20.00 (Institutional), 50 cents (Students) membership fees for one year.

Name..... Tele No.

Address

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Return to: The Secretary, National Trust for Fiji, PO Box 2089, Suva.

*On joining the Trust you become a subscriber to the HERITAGE.

YOUNG FIJI MUSICIANS INVITED TO ATTEND AUSTRALIAN MUSIC CAMP

The organisers of the Pan Pacific Music Camp which is held each January in Collanoy, N.S.W. Australia has invited a school student and a music teacher from Fiji to take part in the 1979 camp.

The Music Camp is open to singers and instrumentalists attending high school up to and during 1978. 120 students will take part in the two week camp which has as its director Dr. Roland Smart, Head of Practical Studies at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Other members of the staff include leading teachers and performers of music in Australia.

The purpose of the camp is to provide a high light musical experience for Secondary School Students, the finest in instruction in instrumental and choral music, as wide a variety as musical offerings as possible in an environment conducive to creativity for musical performance. It also provides a common ground for young musicians to share their ideas and develop their talent and develop an attitude of excellence in musical accomplishment.

Included in the programme are orchestral and choral music, concert and stage bands, brass and jazz ensembles and solo and chamber music activities.

The camp is held in a conference centre high on a hill overlooking Collaroy Beach and the Pacific Ocean where students will live together in dormitory accommodation. As well as musical activities there will be a general recreational program.

Transport and accommodation costs will be met for the two Fiji participants.

Applications to take part in the camp should be made in writing to the Secretary of the Fiji Arts Council giving the following details - age, school attended, instrument played and years of learning, name of music teacher, any examinations passed and playing experience. Vocalists should indicate whether they are Soprano, alto, tenor or bass.

All applicants will be required to attend an audition. Applications close on Saturday 14th October.

- Fiji Arts Council.

COMING EVENTS - September

- Friday 1st Methodist Annual Choral Competition for choirs of 20-40 voices at Centenary Church commencing at 7pm.
- Saturday 2nd Methodist Annual Choral Competition for choirs of more than 40 voices at the Civic Auditorium commencing at 7pm.
- Saturday 2nd Guard Change by Royal Fiji Military Forces at Government House Gates at 12md.
- Wednesday 6th to Thursday 7th Suva Orchid & Horticultural Circle Annual Show - Old Town Hall from 10am to 9pm Wednesday, 9am to 5pm Thursday. Admission: Adults 30cents, Children 10cents.
- Friday 8th Opening of Common Facility Centre Workshop & Mobile Workshop Unit at Kalabu by the Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara.
- Thursday 14th Fiji Economics Association meeting at Union Club 5pm Speaker - Mr. Raj Saggar, Transport Economist, Central Planning Office Suva. NO PRESS
- Sunday 24th Music Evening at Anglican Cathedral Extension. Organ, piano, choirs and other instrumental groups.
- Tuesday 26th Fiji Society meeting at Fiji Museum at 8pm. Speaker Mr. Asesela Ravuvu - "The Writing of History".
- Thursday 14th Fiji Economics Association meeting - Union Club 5pm Speaker: Mr. Peter Eaton, Manager of Unit Trust of Fiji - "Unit Trust". NO PRESS.
- Thursday 28th & Friday 29th Centenary Choir Variety concert at Civic Auditorium 8pm. Admission \$1.25 - further information contact Mrs. Verebasaga 23047.
- Friday 29th Beating the Retreat by Royal Fiji Military Forces Queen Elizabeth Barracks 5pm. Permission to enter given at gate. Ring 22801 to confirm date.
- Friday 29th and Saturday 30th Fiji Craft Association Annual Fair at Fiji Museum. Opens from 9am to 7pm on Friday and 9am to 4pm on Saturday. All welcome.
- October 9th Fiji Day
- October 9th Corowalidi pop singing competition at Suva Civic Auditorium. An annual event organised by the Corowalidi Club of F.B.C. Pop singers from all parts of Fiji compete. Awards also given for best dressed group. More information available from Bulou Vasemaca Robarobalevu, F.B.C.
- October 16th Closing date for exhibits - National Art Exhibition
- October 22-29 National Art Exhibition - Fiji Museum sponsored by Fiji Arts Council.
- December 11-21 Triska Blumenfeld exhibition of naif paintings at Y.W.C.A.

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Thursday 28th & Friday 29th Centenary Choir Variety concert at Civic Auditorium 8pm. Admission \$2.50 - further information contact Mrs. Veresaga 2801.

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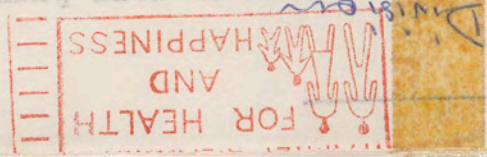
October 9th Crowalibi pop singing competition at Suva Civic Auditorium. An annual event organised by the Crowalibi Club of F.R.C. Pop singers from all parts of Fiji compete. The location will be from Suva Vasevasea Road. P.O. # 81743

October 16th Closing for Records - National Art Exhibition

October 22-29 National Art Exhibition of Hawaii sponsored by Fiji Arts Council.

December 11-21 Y.W. Society Exhibition of nail paintings at

Handwritten: Hawaii 96822
 2550 The Mall
 Serial Records - National Art Exhibition
 University of Hawaii Library



Handwritten: Y.W. Society P.O. # 81743