

¿Does confinement period on farms affect the reintroduction of *Caiman latirostris* to their natural environments? Comparative analysis of wild and released individuals

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Abstract: In “El Fisco” reserve, “Proyecto Yacaré” program has released caimans for about 30 years. *Caiman latirostris* population in this site is composed of wild animals (born in situ) and animals from the same site, released after incubation and breeding in captivity, carried out by the ranching program. Between 2015-2019 both, released and wild animals captured at the site were individually marked on their caudal scutes. A total of 248 individuals were captured, only animals from class size I and II were considered for the study. We measured growth rate in length and weight and distance between captures and recaptures. No differences were observed in growth rates, length ($p = 0.94$) and weight ($p = 0.31$). There were also no differences between capture distances ($p = 0.07$). Therefore, our data support the hypothesis that confinement period of animals on farms, before release, does not affect growth rate in length and weight of animals in wild condition.

Keywords: Growth rates, Reintroduction, *Caiman latirostris*, Wild-Released caimans

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