

TUPINAMBIS MERIANAE (Tegu Lizard). **LONGEVITY.** Report of maximum age in reptiles is largely based on specimens kept in captivity and, for lizards, considerable variation in longevity is reported among species (Porter 1972. *Herpetology*. W. B. Saunders Co. 524 pp.). For *Tupinambis merianae*, the maximum age reported is 13 years (Goin et al. 1978. *Introduction to Herpetology*. W. H. Freeman, San Francisco, California. 378 pp.). In January 1982, one of us (ASA) received an adult male *T. merianae*, captured at nearby Campinas, São Paulo state, southeastern Brazil. This animal was an adult male, ca. 330 mm SVL. Based on size and observed growth rate of captive tegus (pers. obs.), this animal was at least three years old. During most of its life this lizard was kept in an outdoor pen (160 m²), fed twice a week (chicken, rats, beef, fruit), and had free access to water. Over the years, the lizard was kept in a breeding group and grew slowly. In 1992 the lizard was unable to engage in reproductive activity and was separated from the females. A year later, this lizard started progressively to lose muscle mass and its movements became slower and less coordinated. In 1996, its eyes became cloudy and we determined that the lizard would be unable to survive in nature. In captivity, however, he was able to survive until April 1999 (SVL 452 mm; mass 3345 g). Therefore, this specimen lived for a minimum of 17 years, possibly as much as 20 years. In either case, this represents the maximum age reported for the species. The animal was deposited in the collection of the Zoology Department, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Rio Claro, SP, Brazil (DZRC-976).

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