

Update on EDRR for Northern African pythons, Nile monitors and Oustalet's chameleons

Jenny Ketterlin Eckles

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Invasive Species Programs

- Exotic Species Coordination Section is a small section in FWC's Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
- Includes Scott Hardin (Section leader), Kathy Baker (Admin), Jenny Tinnell (Special projects/permitting), Larry Conner (Database management), Lori Haynes and Beverly Eikeland (Project Wild), Kelly Gestring and Murray Stanford (Nonnative Fish Research Lab), and myself, the South Florida Nonnative species coordinator.
- Main activities cover five main areas: Prevention, Early Detection, Rapid Response, Control/Management, and Education/Outreach

Where I work



Priority Animal Species

- **Priority Animals**

- Northern African pythons, Nile monitors, Oustalet's chameleon, Argentine black and white tegus, Burmese pythons, Purple swamphens, Gambian pouch rats, and Sacred ibis

- **Newly Detected Animal Species (kind of)**

- Nile monitors and Oustalet's chameleons

2011 Everglades Invasive Species Summit



- # EVERGLADES Cisma

NAPs removed this past dry season



Nile monitors (*Varanus niloticus*)

Newly detected, for real

- Large population established in Cape Coral
- Small population reported in Dade County near Speedway for 20+ years
- Single reports in SW Ranches and Hollywood areas of Broward in past five years
- Also single reports along C-51 canal in West Palm Beach (Southern Blvd)
- Were told by python permittee that a friend along C-51 had been seeing them regularly along C-51 this past dry season
- Investigations by land turned up nothing but first boat survey recorded four individuals, the second three, and the third two

Monitoring monitors

Nile Monitor (*Varanus niloticus*)
FWC Non-Native Species Database
19-April-2011



Nile Monitor
FWC Non-Native Species Database
10-June-2011



A new kind of Love Canal



More like 'Nowly detected'

What's next?

- Place traps with private citizens with likely reports
- Provide outreach materials in select neighborhoods
- Expand trapping locations and methods on C-51
- Work with Jared Price from University of Louisville and Todd Campbell to analyze stomach contents
- Assess the possibility of eradication over the course of the next year and create a management plan

Nile monitors reports in SE Florida through June 2011



Oustalet's chameleons (*Furcifer oustaleti*)



2011 Everglades Invasive Species Summit



EVERGLADES Cisma

Response and Assessment



Photos by Joy Vinci,
University of Florida

Needs & Gaps

- More research needs to be conducted on Purple swamphen habits in Florida and their possible impacts on native species
- Research on the use Burrowing owl and Gopher tortoise burrows by spiny tail iguanas
- More live operators and responders for 1-888-IVE-GOT1 so that the success we experienced when advertising for monitors could be repeated with other species, like chameleons
- ESC wants to put ourselves out there to offer help to universities and other agencies for obtaining grants and/or to administer grants

Thank you!

- ECISMA, Summit organizers
- My boss, Scott Hardin and lab co-workers, Kelly Gestring and Murray Stanford
- Dennis, Tony and LeRoy
- Various herpers who have shown me the ropes
- Welcome our newest member, Liz Barraco

Jennifer.Ketterlin@myfwc.com