

Common Green Iguana

Green Iguana (in Japanese pronunciation)

Scientific name Iguana iguana

Classification Squamata, Sauria, Iguanidae

Distribution From Central America to South America and the West Indies.

Feeding Habits When it is juvenile eats insects but as it grows up, to become a complete herbivore which eats various botanicals such as the sprout or bud of a tree, fruits, flowers and leaves.

Characteristics The total length is usually from 60 to 130 cm, but the largest one can reach up to 200 cm. Adult males have the scales are developed mane-like on their backs. There are large round scales under the ear canals. It has a sensory organ called the parietal eye on the top of a head, which is called the third eye, and can detect ultraviolet rays.

Behavior and ecology It is an arboreal animal likes the waterside of the rainforests. When attacked by their predators, dive from the tree to the surface below and escape. They may also bite with sharp teeth the predators or autotomize their tails to escape. It is confirmed that this species to have been become in the wild in Ishigaki Island, Okinawa Prefecture.

