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**From a thriving past to an uncertain future:  
Zooarchaeological evidence of two millennia of human  
impact on a large emblematic lizard (*Iguana  
delicatissima*) on the Guadeloupe Islands (French West  
Indies)**

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1 Title: From a thriving past to an uncertain future: zooarchaeological evidence of two millennia of  
2 human impact on a large emblematic lizard (*Iguana delicatissima*) on the Guadeloupe Islands  
3 (French West Indies)

4 Running title: Past *Iguana* from the Guadeloupe Islands

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16

17 Abstract

18 Among the lizards in the Lesser Antillean Islands, iguanas are undoubtedly the most emblematic,  
19 especially the endemic species, *Iguana delicatissima*. However, although much effort is currently  
20 made for the conservation of this species as a result of the present biodiversity crisis, nearly

21 nothing is known of the history of this animal on these islands during the last millennia. Here we  
22 present the first data relating to the distribution, morphology, and interaction of past iguanas with  
23 human populations in the Lesser Antilles. To do so, we review the archaeological *Iguana* remains  
24 collected over the past 15 years on the Guadeloupe Islands. Our results show that the only *Iguana*  
25 species occurring in pre-Columbian archaeological deposits is *Iguana delicatissima*. Moreover,  
26 we demonstrate that this species occurred on all the islands of Guadeloupe during pre-Columbian  
27 times and then suddenly became extinct between 1960 and 1990 on most of these islands. We  
28 also confirm the modern introduction of *I. iguana* to the Guadeloupe Islands. In addition,  
29 zooarchaeological research demonstrates that pre-Columbian human populations occasionally  
30 used iguanas as a source of food, but with no apparent impact on the native population. However,  
31 the first data relating to past size variations of *I. delicatissima* on the Guadeloupe Islands indicate  
32 that archaeological iguanas were much larger than the largest remnant modern specimens and that  
33 a marked decrease in body length (more than 20%) occurred in these lizards after contact with  
34 European populations. This evidence of widespread extinction and morphological change during  
35 modern times is another demonstration of the extensive effects of disturbance and selection  
36 induced by modern human societies on endemic insular faunas.

## 37 1. Introduction

38 The fauna of the Lesser Antilles Islands is rich in lizards and snakes with a high degree of  
39 endemism (Henderson and Powell, 2009; Henderson and Breuil, 2012). However, due to the  
40 small size and ecological sensitivity of these islands, squamates are, like many other vertebrate  
41 taxa, strongly impacted by the current worldwide biodiversity crisis (Barnosky et al., 2011). The  
42 islands of Guadeloupe are no exception to this, and both historical (Breuil, 2002; Breuil et al.,  
43 2011, 2010) and fossil data (Bailon et al., 2015; Bochaton et al., 2016a, 2015; Boudadi-Maligne

44 et al., 2016; Grouard, 2001; Stouvenot et al., 2014) show that most of the past endemic squamates  
45 of these islands have become extinct, mainly during the recent past.

46 The most emblematic of the surviving reptiles is probably the genus *Iguana* Laurenti, 1768,  
47 represented by the green iguana (*Iguana iguana* [Linnaeus, 1758]), and the Lesser Antillean  
48 iguana (*Iguana delicatissima* Laurenti, 1768) (Breuil, 2002; Henderson and Breuil, 2012). These  
49 two species diverged around 22.8 Mya ago (Hedges et al., 2015) and are both present in the  
50 Lesser Antilles. However, they seem to have undergone different local evolutionary histories,  
51 although they can still breed together and produce fertile offspring (Vuillaume et al., 2015). *I.*  
52 *iguana* has a very broad natural distribution area in continental Central and South America  
53 (Stephen et al., 2013) and was recently (accidentally or deliberately) introduced far from its  
54 natural distribution area to many places in the world, such as Israel, Hawaii, Florida, the Greater  
55 Antilles, and the Lesser Antilles, probably including Guadeloupe (Breuil, 2013; Falcón et al.,  
56 2013; Henderson and Breuil, 2012; Krauss et al., 2014; Pasachnick et al., 2012). Endemic  
57 populations also seem to occur on some of the Lesser Antillean islands, such as Saba, Montserrat,  
58 and Saint Lucia (Breuil, 2013; Malone and Davis, 2004; Morton, 2009; Stephen et al., 2013).  
59 Conversely, *I. delicatissima* is endemic to the Lesser Antilles. It is now considered to be an  
60 endangered species on the most recent IUCN red list (Breuil et al., 2010), as it is now extinct on  
61 most of the islands in Guadeloupe (Breuil, 2002; Henderson and Breuil, 2012), and is currently  
62 the focus of an international plan of action (Knapp et al., 2014). Recent genetic data show little  
63 divergence between the different Lesser Antillean populations and suggest that this animal may  
64 have spread to the islands recently, possibly as a result of human activity (Martin et al., 2015;  
65 Vuillaume et al., 2015). This hypothesis is congruent with the paleontological results obtained  
66 from Pleistocene and Holocene fossil data from the island of Marie-Galante, which show that no

67 *Iguana* osteological remains occur in layers preceding the arrival of human populations  
68 (Bochaton et al., 2015).

69 Both of these *Iguana* species can hybridize when syntopic, which probably played a major role in  
70 the extinction of *I. delicatissima* in Guadeloupe, except for the islands of La Désirade and Îlets de  
71 Petite Terre, where there are no *I. iguana* (Breuil, 2002). However, although this genus is absent  
72 from the very sparse Pleistocene and early Holocene fossil record in Guadeloupe, historical  
73 (Breuil, 2002; Du Tertre, 1667) and especially archaeological (Grouard, 2010, 2007, 2001)  
74 sources provide evidence of the past occurrence of the genus *Iguana* on these islands. The latter  
75 sources show that the genus *Iguana* sp. has been present on all the islands of Guadeloupe since at  
76 least 1500 BC and was hunted by pre-Columbian human populations more than 2,000 years  
77 before the arrival of Europeans. On account of a combination of extensive data concerning the  
78 modern representative of this genus and archaeological data, the iguana is an excellent model for  
79 studying the temporal evolution of human impact on insular large lizard populations.

80 Up until recently, few data concerning archaeological iguanas from the Guadeloupe Islands had  
81 been recorded. Zooarchaeological studies have, in the Guadeloupe Islands and in other Caribbean  
82 islands, mainly focused on the extensive biodiversity of other taxa, especially aquatic animals,  
83 which largely compose the meat diet of most of past human populations rather than taxa, like  
84 iguanas, that remain scarce in zooarchaeological assemblages (Giovas, 2016; Grouard, 2010;  
85 Keegan et al., 2008; Wing, 2001). In addition, the paucity of research on iguanas, and more  
86 generally archaeological lizard remains, has further complicated these studies. As a consequence,  
87 the few studies to date of iguanas from archaeological contexts focused on the taxonomic  
88 identification of osteological remains (Martin, 2009; Martin et al., 2010). These studies showed  
89 that two iguana species (*I. iguana* and *I. delicatissima*) occurred on the Guadeloupe Islands

90 prehistorically (Martin, 2009; Martin et al., 2010); a finding that contradicts the notion that *I.*  
91 *iguana* would be a recently introduced species. An early occurrence of *I. iguana* was also  
92 advanced by Lazell (1973), who stated that “no human introduction is responsible for the  
93 presence of *Iguana iguana* anywhere in the Lesser Antilles”. However, the conclusions proposed  
94 by Martin (2009) and Martin et al. (2010) based on archaeological specimens are questionable,  
95 since a recent study conducted by Bochaton et al. (2016b), focusing on the osteological  
96 differences between the two *Iguana* species, has shown that most of the osteological  
97 characteristics used up until now are unreliable. Consequently, a review of the archaeological  
98 material using new reliable identification criteria was necessary in order to analyze variations in  
99 the taxonomic composition of *Iguana* in archaeological assemblages from the Guadeloupe  
100 Islands throughout time. In addition, the reconstruction of the past snout-vent length (SVL) of  
101 archaeological *Iguana* (Bochaton, 2016) allows for size comparisons with modern populations.

102 The aim of this paper is to provide a new analysis of osteological *Iguana* remains from 25  
103 Guadeloupean archaeological sites using new methodological tools developed for the  
104 identification (Bochaton et al., 2016b) and zooarchaeological study (Bochaton, 2016) of  
105 archaeological *Iguana* remains. These newly obtained zooarchaeological data are then compared  
106 with data collected from modern *Iguana* on the Guadeloupe Islands, as well as textual historical  
107 data. Finally we use the results to provide evidence of the occurrence of *Iguana* species and  
108 morphological changes through time, and describe interactions between past humans and iguanas  
109 on the Guadeloupe Islands.

## 110 2. Regional setting

111 The Guadeloupe Islands are situated in the northern Lesser Antilles between Dominica and  
112 Montserrat. The archipelago is composed principally of two large islands, Basse Terre (848.1  
113 km<sup>2</sup>) and Grande-Terre (585.7 km<sup>2</sup>), separated by a narrow marine channel. Other smaller islands  
114 are now clearly separated from the two main islands: La Désirade (21.1 km<sup>2</sup>) and Îlets de Petite  
115 Terre (1.5 km<sup>2</sup>), Marie-Galante (157.5 km<sup>2</sup>), and Les Saintes (14.2 km<sup>2</sup>) (Fig. 1), each with their  
116 own geological history. Some of the Guadeloupian islands (Îlets de Petite Terre, Marie-Galante,  
117 La Désirade and Grande-Terre) are flat limestone islands, which emerged during the late  
118 Calabrian around 800 Ky ago, although La Désirade developed much earlier during the  
119 Piacenzian/Gelasian transition at around 2.7 Ma (Bouysse and Guennoc, 1982; Münch et al.,  
120 2013). The vegetation of these islands is mainly composed of xerophytic forests and is poorly  
121 diversified (Lasserre, 1961). The other islands, Basse Terre and Les Saintes, are volcanic islands  
122 which formed between 2.79 and 0.435 My and 4.7 and 0.6 My, respectively (Andrieuff et al.,  
123 1979; Jacques and Maury, 1988; Samper et al., 2007). Basse Terre is mountainous with many  
124 peaks above 1,000 m and a culminating point at 1,467 m (la Soufrière). Pluviometry is higher  
125 there than on the other islands and the vegetation is far more diversified with xerophilic,  
126 mesophilic, and hydrophilic forests (Lasserre, 1961; Sastre and Breuil, 2007). The morphology  
127 and the size of the Guadeloupe Islands varied markedly in relation to sea level fluctuations and  
128 the islands of Basse Terre, Grande-Terre, Petite Terre and la Désirade formed a single island  
129 during the Late Pleistocene. However, during the chronological period covered by our study  
130 (mainly the last two millennia), the morphology of the archipelago was very similar to its current  
131 configuration.

132 As regards past human settlement, the oldest archaeological site of these islands is the site of  
133 Morel Zero (Paulet-Locard and Stouvenot, 2005), radiocarbon dated to around 1500 cal. BC

134 (Mesoindian or Archaic Age), but indirect evidence of human occupation in the form of increased  
135 charcoal particles, presumably from human-induced fires, suggests that settlement could have  
136 been earlier, ca. 3000 cal. BC. (Siegel et al., 2015; Stouvenot et al., 2014). Morel I on Grande-  
137 Terre is the oldest ceramic archaeological site in Guadeloupe Islands dating to around AD 80 and  
138 attributed to the Huecan Saladoid culture (Neo-Indian or Early Ceramic Age) (Bérard, 2013;  
139 Clerc, 1964; Fitzpatrick, 2015; Hofman et al., 1999; Romon et al., 2006).

140 This early Saladoid component includes Cedrosan Saladoid ceramic traditions, which occurred  
141 between AD 300-900 and evolved into the Marmoran Troumassoid tradition that lasted from AD  
142 900-1500 (i.e., the Late Ceramic Age) (Bonnissent, 2008; Honoré, 2014; Keegan et al., 2013).  
143 After Columbus' second trip in 1493 and a period of contact between Amerindian and European  
144 populations archaeologically characterized by Cayo complex ceramics, French colonization  
145 began around 1635 and led to the disappearance of Amerindian populations (Keegan et al., 2013;  
146 Saunders, 2005).

### 147 3. Material and Methods

#### 148 3.1 Zooarchaeological material

149 The osteological material included in this study comes from 25 pre-Columbian archaeological  
150 sites situated on Grande-Terre (5), Basse Terre (7), Les Saintes (1), Îlets de Petite Terre (4), La  
151 Désirade (3) and Marie-Galante (5) (Fig. 1; Supplementary material S1; Tab. 1). The  
152 chronological or cultural attribution of these sites is reported in Supplementary material S1 and  
153 Tab. 1. Most of the sites with the *Iguana* remains studied here had already been investigated by  
154 zooarchaeologists who studied the whole bone assemblages recovered in these archaeological  
155 deposits (de Waal, 2006; Grouard, 2010, 2007, 2001). For this study, the complete assemblage of



156 skeletal remains collected from each site was observed in order to review previously identified  
157 *Iguana* remains and, when possible, to add newly identified remains. In total, 2,236  
158 archaeological *Iguana* remains were collected from the different assemblages and investigated as  
159 part of this study.

### 160 3.2 Methodology

161 Specific identifications followed the osteological characters described by Bochaton et al. (2016b).  
162 The latter study is based on a large sample of modern *Iguana* (69 skeletons) and proposes a series  
163 of 32 identification criteria distributed among 17 different skeletal (both cranial and postcranial)  
164 elements allowing for the distinction of *I. delicatissima*, *I. iguana*, and for some characters,  
165 hybrids of the two species. The authors also provided a percentage of reliability for each criterion  
166 in order to allow for the discussion of the results. In the present study, archaeological bones that  
167 did not present discriminating characters according to Bochaton et al. (2016b) were left  
168 specifically unidentified as *Iguana* sp.

169 The Snout-Vent Length (SVL) estimations of archaeological specimens were obtained using the  
170 measurements and predictive equations described by Bochaton (2016) on the different anatomical  
171 elements. Skeletal maturity was estimated on the basis of the fully or partially ossified status of  
172 each bone and the maturity stages also described by Bochaton (2016). Skeletal maturity and size  
173 data were then combined to obtain a “Minimal Theoretical Maximal Size” or MTMS, used to  
174 estimate the size that the archaeological specimen would have reached if it had lived until the end  
175 of its growth. This MTMS is estimated by considering that the largest immature long bone  
176 provides an SVL estimation of a maximum of 80% of the maximal size of the specimen  
177 (Bochaton, 2016; Maisano, 2002). Data concerning the size of the modern Guadeloupian *I.*

178 *delicatissima* were collected by the French Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage  
179 (ONCFS) on La Désirade in 2012 (funded by the French state and FEDER) and by the NGO Le  
180 Gaiac association on Îlets de Petite Terre (Terre-de-Haut and Terre-de-Bas) between 2007 and  
181 2011, and were made available to us for study.

182 The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was calculated using the most abundant anatomical  
183 element for each site (Shipman, 1981). The global MNI is an addition of the MNI obtained from  
184 the different sites considering that it is highly unlikely that a specimen would be divided among  
185 different deposits. To study the anatomical distribution of bone remains we used the  
186 “Proportional Representation of each skeletal part” (PR) (Dodson and Wexlar, 1979).

187 Statistical analyses were performed using the free software “R” (version 3.1, [https://cran.r-](https://cran.r-project.org/)  
188 [project.org/](https://cran.r-project.org/)) and “R Studio” (version 0.98.1102). Data normality was tested using the Shapiro-  
189 Wilk test. As data were not normally distributed, comparisons between two populations were  
190 performed using the Wilcoxon test and comparisons between more than two populations using  
191 the Kruskal-Wallis test. Differences were considered to be statistically significant for P value  
192 <0.01.

193 Finally, in order to observe traces hypothetically left by humans on *Iguana* bones, all the remains  
194 were carefully observed using a stereomicroscope (Nikon SMZ1000). In addition, Scanning  
195 Electron Microscope (SEM) photographs of digested bones were taken.

196

## 197 4. Results

### 198 4.1 Specific identification (Figure 2; Tab. 1)

199 A total of 2,236 *Iguana* remains (MNI=80) were collected from the different archaeological sites  
200 studied here. Among these remains, 1,826 (81.7%) did not present any of the anatomical  
201 structures taken into account by Bochaton et al. (2016b) and thus could not be identified at the  
202 species level. The other 410 remains were identified at the species level. They nearly all (407  
203 remains-18.2%) presented the following *I. delicatissima* characteristics that differ from *I. iguana*  
204 (see Bochaton et al., 2016b): On the maxilla, the infraorbital foramen is more anteriorly located  
205 on the supradental shelf than on *I. iguana* and can reach the transversal crest, and the exonarial  
206 margin of the facial process forms an obtuse angle with the premaxillary process in lateral view;  
207 On the frontal bone (Fig. 2), the smallest width of the interorbital constriction is superior to 50%  
208 of the maximal lateral length of the bone, the posterolateral processes are oriented  
209 posterolaterally and articular facets with the parietal are oriented dorsally and are clearly visible  
210 in dorsal view, and the bone presents a posterior braincase depression in ventral view; On the  
211 parietal bone (Fig. 2), the pineal foramen is not well delimited on the frontal margin of the bone  
212 and articular facets with the frontal bone are oriented ventrally and highly visible in ventral view;  
213 On the postorbital bone, the postorbital articular facet with the jugal is medially directed and  
214 more visible in medial view than in *I. iguana*, and the articular facets with the jugal and  
215 squamosal form two individualized facets; On the jugal bone, the dorsal view of the jugal  
216 suborbital ramus bears a well-developed anteromedial expansion between the palatine and  
217 ectopterygoid insertion regions; On the pterygoid bone, only one weakly posteriorly extended  
218 dental row occurs, and the lateral area of the bone is flat; On the sphenoid bone, the sphenoid  
219 ventral crests joining the basal tubercle to the basiptyergoid is sigmoid in ventral view; On the  
220 dentary, the intramandibular lamella is short and expands below the first to second dental  
221 positions; On the coronoid bone, the coronoid process is higher and more dorsally rounded in  
222 lateral view than in *I. iguana*, this process may also present a small posterior protuberance; On

223 the articular bone, the length of the retroarticular process is inferior to 150% of the length of the  
224 articular fossa and the tympanic crest is wider than the angular crest; On the surangular bone  
225 (Fig. 2), the surangular coronoid process is pointed; On the axis vertebra, the ratio between the  
226 minimal neural arch length and the posterior neural arch breadth comprising the  
227 postzygapophysis is inferior to 0.65; All the caudal vertebrae lack caudal autotomy planes; On  
228 the scapulocoracoid bone, the small posterolateral protuberance marking the attachment of the  
229 scapulohumeral ligament is absent; On the pelvic bone, the ilium dorsal crest is convex and bears  
230 a short and curved ventral edge, the posterior section of the ilium is subtriangular, the anterior  
231 section of the pubis forms a triangle with an acute apex angle, and the posterior margin of  
232 ischium is more concave than in *I. iguana*; On the humerus (Fig. 2), the foramen of the  
233 supracondylar fossa is more open than in *I. iguana*.

234 However, three remains (0.1%) presented the following *Iguana iguana* characteristics: an  
235 infraorbital foramen posteriorly located on a maxilla, and an exonarinal margin of the facial  
236 process forming a right angle with the premaxillary process in lateral view on the same bone; an  
237 intramandibular lamella anteriorly extended under the four last dental positions on a dentary, and  
238 a narrow foramen of the supracondylar fossa on a humerus.

#### 239 4.2 Body size characteristics of *Iguana* archaeological populations

240 Past Snout-Vent Length (SVL) and skeletal maturity were observed on all the studied *Iguana*  
241 remains. Past Snout-Vent Length (SVL) estimations were obtained from 488 *Iguana* remains  
242 (MNI=48) from all skeletal parts for which size predictive equations were defined by Bochaton  
243 (2016). These remains come from all of the archaeological sites included in this study and a list  
244 of all the obtained estimations can be found in Supplementary material (S2).

245 The estimated size ranged from around 70 mm SVL for small newborn specimens to very large  
246 individuals with SVL of more than 500 mm (Fig. 3, Supplementary material S2). However, all  
247 size classes were not equally distributed in our assemblage. Specimens smaller than 220 mm SVL  
248 were nearly absent and most fossil *Iguana* had a SVL between 300 and 400 mm. Specimens  
249 smaller than 220 mm SVL (between 70 and 150 mm SVL) only occur in Morne-Rita on Marie-  
250 Galante Island (NMI=1), Cathédrale de Basse-Terre on Basse Terre Island (NMI=1) and Anse à  
251 la Gourde on Grande-Terre Island (NMI=2) (Fig. 3, Supplementary material S2).

252 Skeletal maturity data (bone ossification) were recorded on 223 archaeological *Iguana* remains.  
253 Among them, 65 (29%) were mature bones of which 35 belong to fully-grown specimens (with  
254 fully ossified long bones and/or fused sacral vertebrae = stage 4 *sensu* Bochaton, 2016). The  
255 other 158 remains (71%) correspond to non-fully grown individuals and at least 13 of them  
256 belong to non-sexually mature specimens (for which the pelvic girdle and axis are not fully  
257 ossified = stage 2 *sensu* Bochaton, 2016).

258 Moreover, 114 remains yield a combination of both size and skeletal maturity data and thus allow  
259 for the estimation of the MTMS and the size range of the previously defined maturity stages. The  
260 detailed observation of archaeological *Iguana* sizes was performed at the island scale because the  
261 material was too scant to obtain significant results for each site. In addition, we noted that  
262 archaeological specimens collected from the different Guadeloupe islands present SVL  
263 differences (Kruskal-Wallis test,  $p.val < 0.01$ ) (Fig. 3). Size overlap often occurred between the  
264 defined maturity stages. This could reflect a size estimation error linked to measurement error,  
265 variability in bone maturation timing or could also be the result of sexual size dimorphism.

266 On Marie-Galante, the Minimal Theoretical Maximal Size (MTMS) of archaeological *Iguana*  
267 was 475 mm, and the estimated SVL mean was 324 mm (Fig. 3-A). A size overlap of a maximum  
268 of 40 mm was observed between the maturity stages. The results were similar for the sites from  
269 Îlets de Petite Terre (Fig. 3-B), La Désirade (Fig. 3-C), and Grande-Terre (Fig. 3-D): MTMS are  
270 respectively 462, 460 and 475 mm with mean estimated SVL of 330, 358 and 310 mm  
271 respectively. On Îlets de Petite Terre and Grande-Terre, some limited size overlap (between 19  
272 and 25 mm) was observed between maturity stages. A single archaeological SVL datum (361  
273 mm) was collected from Les Saintes Island.

274 The situation was more complex for archaeological *Iguana* from Basse Terre Island, as two  
275 groups of very different sizes seem to occur in the same archaeological contexts. Most of the  
276 specimens are larger than any other observed specimens, with estimated sizes between 400-450  
277 mm SVL for non-fully mature bones (MNI=1), reaching a maximum of 511 mm SVL for fully  
278 mature bones (MNI=2) (Fig 3-E). However, some specimens (MNI=2) present estimated sizes of  
279 only 323 and 388 mm SVL for fully mature bones. This situation led to an important body size  
280 overlap between maturity stages and made the definition of a single MTMS impossible.  
281 Consequently, we defined two MTMS on the basis of the smallest mature and largest immature  
282 bones and obtained MTMS of respectively 403 mm and 556 mm SVL (Fig. 3-E). These two  
283 MTMS correspond to two populations presenting different body sizes. Taken as a whole, the  
284 estimated SVL of Basse Terre archaeological iguanas (mean= 364 mm) were the highest for the  
285 archipelago.

286 We did not observe any effects of chronological attribution (Saladoid or Troumassoid) on the size  
287 of the *Iguana* remains (Wilcoxon test, p.val=0.34). However, comparisons of SVL data collected  
288 from modern *I. delicatissima* populations from La Désirade (n= 274) and Îlets de Petite Terre

289 (Terre-de-Haut and Terre-de-Bas) (n=435) with all archaeological SVL data obtained from these  
290 islands show that archaeological iguanas were far larger than modern specimens (Wilcoxon test,  
291 p.val <0.001). Indeed, modern iguanas from three islands do not exceed 390 mm SVL (max. 390  
292 mm on Terre-de-Haut [see also Breuil, 2002], 385 mm on Terre-de-Bas and 360 mm on La  
293 Désirade [387 mm following Schardt, 1998]), whereas archaeological iguanas from the same  
294 islands can be larger than 450 mm SVL. The SVL mean of archaeological iguanas (330-358 mm)  
295 was also higher than the SVL mean of modern iguanas (258-274 mm), but as the specimens  
296 occurring in archaeological sites and measured in the field are probably subject to very different  
297 sampling methods, SVL means are nearly impossible to interpret. A very dry season in 2001 led  
298 to high mortality among iguanas from La Désirade and Petite-Terre islands (Breuil, 2002) and  
299 could have contributed to the elimination of large specimens. However, archaeological iguanas  
300 from these islands are still larger than any modern *I. delicatissima* ever measured in the Lesser  
301 Antilles, and a reduction in size during the modern period is very likely.

#### 302 4.3 Skeletal distribution, anthropic marks, and surface alterations of the archaeological remains

303 Due to the scarcity of *Iguana* remains in archaeological sites, we did not find clear site-scale  
304 differences in the data presented in this section. Consequently, all the sites were treated as a  
305 whole, but unusual observations encountered at single sites are also mentioned when pertinent.

306 The overall representation of skeletal parts was low (PR=12.5%), which means that on average  
307 only 12% of *Iguana* skeletons were present in the archaeological sites, but all the anatomical  
308 parts were represented. The most represented anatomical parts are the proximal part of the tail  
309 (PR=42), femur (PR=32), humerus (PR= 29), middle part of the tail (PR=28), pelvic girdle  
310 (PR=25), dorsal vertebrae (PR=24), and tibia (PR=22) (Fig. 4). These anatomical parts are the

311 most important in terms of meat content, especially the proximal part of the tail, the humerus, and  
312 the femur. However, these bones are also the biggest and strongest elements, and are the most  
313 likely to be preserved and collected. All the other bones, although less represented, were also  
314 present in the assemblages (Fig. 4). These bones are smaller elements, sometimes fragile and  
315 subject to high breakage rates, and are thus more exposed to collection bias, especially  
316 considering that 80% of the studied bones were broken.

317 Traces of burning, cut marks and digestion marks were rare on the examined material and only  
318 occurred on 84 remains (3.7% of the total assemblage). Most of the observed traces (56) were  
319 traces of fire, ranging from black burning marks (Stages 1 and 2 from Stiner and Kuhn 1995;  
320 N=45) to white calcination marks (Stages 4 and 5 from Stiner and Kuhn 1995; N=11). These  
321 marks indicate that bones presenting black marks were exposed to temperatures superior to 300  
322 °C and those presenting white marks to 675 °C (Munro et al., 2008). These traces of fire occur  
323 mostly on skeletal extremities: caudal vertebrae (N=21), the phalanx (N=8) and cranium (N=6)  
324 (Fig. 4, 5). Cut marks were also observed on 16 remains (Fig. 4, 5), but were difficult to observe  
325 because of bone alterations such as the occurrence of concretions or surface degradation. These  
326 marks only occurred on long bones (N=5), the pelvic girdle (N=3) and vertebrae (N=8) (Fig. 4).  
327 The most recurring location of cut marks was on mid-caudal vertebrae (N=6), where traces  
328 occurred all around the vertebrae and clearly reflected the removal of the distal part of the tail,  
329 which is very long and poor in meat. Cut marks observed on this area were sometimes combined  
330 with traces of fire (Fig. 5). Digestive marks were also observed on 12 remains, but only attributed  
331 to small specimens with SVL of around 90 mm, at Anse à la Gourde and in cave deposits (Anse à  
332 l'Ecu, Morne-Rita and Cadet 3). We considered some of these bones to be highly digested, as  
333 shown by two dentaries (Fig. 6) displaying surface dissolution, enlargement of labial foramina



334 (Fig. 6-A), and the destruction of most of their teeth. Such traces were probably left by humans,  
335 carnivores, or diurnal raptors (Andrews, 1990; Stoetzel et al., 2012).

## 336 5. Discussion

### 337 5.1 Taxonomic identification of archaeological iguanas

338 Among the 410 archaeological remains identified to the species level, 407 were attributed to *I.*  
339 *delicatissima* and only three to *I. iguana*. However, these *I. iguana* identifications are highly  
340 uncertain. Indeed, two of them (a maxilla and a humerus from the Basse-Terre Gare Maritime  
341 site) were identified using characteristics that are not considered to be 100% reliable (Bochaton et  
342 al., (2016b). They could represent misidentifications in view of the large number of studied  
343 archaeological remains. The third bone presenting an *Iguana iguana* characteristic is a dentary  
344 from the Tourlourous site on Marie-Galante. It was identified based on a 100% reliable character  
345 (character I from Bochaton et al., 2016b). However, this attribution is still dubious as the bone is  
346 very isolated in an assemblage where 99.7% of the remains were unambiguously attributed to *I.*  
347 *delicatissima*. Given this context, a single remain bearing an *I. iguana* character is clearly  
348 insufficient to consider the occurrence of that species at the Tourlourous site. The most likely  
349 explanation is that the diagnostic characteristic described for the dentary by Bochaton et al.,  
350 2016b is not 100% reliable. This would not be surprising considering the important skeletal  
351 morphological overlap between *I. iguana* and *I. delicatissima* described by previous authors and  
352 the limited number of available comparative specimens. Consequently, *I. delicatissima* seems to  
353 be the only *Iguana* species occurring on the Guadeloupe Islands during pre-Columbian times and  
354 there is no clear evidence of the occurrence of *I. iguana* during that period. In addition, the  
355 extreme scarcity of *I. iguana* elements in our material shows that these *I. delicatissima*

356 populations bear no traces of past hybridization with *I. iguana*. These results differ from those  
357 obtained by Martin (2009) and Martin et al. (2010), who stated that both *I. iguana* and *I.*  
358 *delicatissima* occurred prehistorically on the Guadeloupe Islands. This contradiction is  
359 undoubtedly due to the unreliability of the identification characters used by these authors  
360 (Bochaton et al., 2016b).

361 Consequently, previous results should no longer be taken into account and we should currently  
362 consider that there is no evidence of past occurrences of *I. iguana* on the Guadeloupe Islands  
363 prior to European contact. This conclusion can be related to the long-standing discussion  
364 concerning the introduced or native status of *I. iguana* in the Lesser Antilles. The introduced  
365 status of *I. iguana* was first suggested by Dunn (1934) and then Underwood (1962), but  
366 subsequently refuted by Lazell (1973). Later, Lescure (1983) suggested an Amerindian role in the  
367 dispersal of *I. iguana* in the Antilles and more recently Breuil (2013, 2002), Breuil et al. (2010)  
368 and Vuillaume et al. (2015) assumed that *I. iguana* was introduced to the Guadeloupe Islands and  
369 St Maarten during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Our results concur with the latter hypothesis and  
370 should contribute to addressing this long-standing debate.

## 371 5.2 Size of past iguanas

372 Moreover, we investigated the past size of *I. delicatissima* in the Guadeloupe Islands for the first  
373 time. In order to achieve this, we observed two estimated size variables; the mean SVL and  
374 Minimal Theoretical Maximal Size (MTMS) of past iguanas from each island and found that  
375 these variables showed conflicting results. Indeed, although both variables showed inter-island  
376 differences, the mean SVL indicated that past iguanas were larger on Basse Terre and La  
377 Désirade than on Marie-Galante and Îlets de Petite Terre (Terre-de-Bas), and even smaller on

378 Grande-Terre (Fig.3). Conversely, the MTMS (between 460 and 475 mm SVL) indicated that  
379 iguanas were of similar size on all the islands with the exception of Basse Terre, where they were  
380 larger (Fig.3). The advantage of the MTMS value is that it also takes account of the skeletal  
381 maturity of past iguanas and not simply their size. Thus, it allows for the study of the body size of  
382 archaeological populations of consumed animals, with often strongly biased size composition: we  
383 clearly demonstrated a size selection by human hunters on the studied archaeological iguanas (see  
384 below). Thus we consider the mean body size differences observed on archaeological iguanas  
385 from the different islands as a bias induced by differential sampling selection by past humans  
386 rather than true biological differences.

387 Consequently, we assume that the past size of *I. delicatissima* was similar on Marie-Galante, Îlets  
388 de Petite Terre (Terre-de-bas), La Désirade and Grande-Terre. However, larger iguanas occurred  
389 on Basse Terre Island, as shown by the MTMS (superior to 550 mm). The larger sizes observed  
390 on that island could be linked to indirect geographic and environmental effects. On account of its  
391 volcanic nature, Basse Terre is more humid and presents more mountainous zones and habitat  
392 diversity than the limestone islands (Lasserre, 1961; Lescure, 1987). It is also noteworthy that the  
393 biggest modern *I. delicatissima* ever measured on Guadeloupe Islands (410 mm SVL) originated  
394 from that island (Breuil, 2002). However, smaller archaeological specimens (MTMS= 403 mm)  
395 were also recovered from Basse Terre. Size differences between these small and large iguanas  
396 occurring on Basse Terre are far too high to be related to the same sexual dimorphism as in  
397 modern *I. delicatissima*, which does not appear to be as marked according to the ONCFS data  
398 collected on La Désirade and Petite Terre (a difference of 20 mm in SVL between the largest  
399 measured female and male) and to data collected on Dominica (a difference of 42 mm in SVL  
400 between the largest measured female and male) (Knapp et al., 2016), or to a size estimation error.

401 It is possible that sexual dimorphism may have been more marked in Basse Terre iguanas than in  
402 modern iguanas but genetic or isotopic data would be needed to confirm this hypothesis. Another  
403 alternative explanation is that these small iguanas could correspond either to an isolated local  
404 population subject to unfavorable biotic and/or abiotic conditions or exogenous iguanas  
405 translocated by pre-Columbians from another island.

### 406 5.3 Pre-Columbian population interactions with iguanas

407 The similarity in size of *I. delicatissima* indicated by the MTMS on most islands, including  
408 Marie-Galante (Fig. 3), where they were probably introduced (Bochaton et al., 2015), could also  
409 point to their introduction to other islands (see also Vuillaume et al., 2015), possibly by human  
410 populations, probably for feeding purposes. However, this hypothesis lacks theoretical grounds  
411 considering that island size only has a slight effect on squamate body size (Meiri, 2007) and this  
412 similarity in size could also be the consequence of convergent evolution. The occurrence of  
413 *Iguana delicatissima* remains in most of the Guadeloupien pre-Columbian archaeological sites  
414 indicates that these large lizards were collected by human pre-Columbian populations for two  
415 thousand years (from 500 BC to AD 1500), possibly using specific hunting strategies. Indeed,  
416 hunted iguanas were not randomly selected, as suggested by archaeological *Iguana* size  
417 distribution, which does not reflect natural population size ranges. Most of the archaeological  
418 assemblages exclusively include large iguanas (mainly between 300 and 400 mm SVL) and  
419 young individuals (with SVL of less than 180 mm) are largely absent from archaeological  
420 deposits (Fig. 3). Although archaeological collection methods (for instance, the use of sieves and  
421 mesh size) could influence the observed size distribution, they cannot account for the lack of  
422 medium-sized individuals, as smaller taxa occur at all of the investigated sites. Thus, the  
423 observed distribution is likely to reflect human selection of the largest animals, which provide the

424 most meat, and points to the difficulties involved in catching young iguanas or to the lack of  
425 interest they present in terms of meat intake. However, this size selection seems to differ between  
426 islands. Indeed, the difference between the MTMS of iguanas from each island and the average  
427 size observed in the archaeological sites of the same island differs among islands. These  
428 differences can be interpreted in terms of selection intensity: lower differences between the mean  
429 size and the MTMS point to the more marked selection of large specimens. This difference is  
430 especially low on La Désirade and Îlets de Petite Terre (102-132 mm), where selection seems to  
431 be strongest. However, it is higher in Marie-Galante and Grande-Terre (151-165 mm), and even  
432 higher in Basse Terre (192 mm), where selection appears to be low. The strong selection of large  
433 specimens on La Désirade and Îlets de Petite Terre could reflect the high density of *Iguana*  
434 populations, and thus the wide choice available to hunters, whereas conversely, population  
435 density would have been lower on Marie-Galante and Grande-Terre. The results from Basse  
436 Terre, indicating populations of different body-size, were difficult to assess. In the light of these  
437 data it is interesting to observe that Îlets de Petite Terre and La Désirade are the only islands in  
438 Guadeloupe still inhabited by large populations of *I. delicatissima* (Breuil, 2002). This could  
439 perhaps be explained by their isolation and high population density, preserving them from  
440 extirpation.

441 This clear size selection applied to archaeological specimens reflects the hunter's capacity to  
442 select hunted specimens and thus indicates the use of specific hunting techniques. No evidence of  
443 injuries was observed on these bones, but historical sources from European authors describing  
444 mid-17<sup>th</sup> century Amerindians provide useful information about how pre-Columbian iguanas may  
445 have been hunted. These authors indicated that iguanas were caught by Carib Indians using a  
446 simple noose mounted on a perch that was discreetly passed around the iguanas' necks

447 (Rochefort, 1658; Du Tertre, 1667; Maurile de Saint Michel (ca 1615-1669) in Grunberg, 2013).  
448 The same technique was still used by Guadeloupe and La Martinique inhabitants long after the  
449 disappearance of pre-Columbian hunters (Labat, 1724; Pinchon, 1971). After being caught, the  
450 authors also explained that the animals were carried to the site and kept alive, sometimes for  
451 several weeks (Du Tertre, 1667; Grunberg, 2013b; Rochefort, 1658), as suggested by the  
452 occurrence of all the anatomical pieces in the bone remains from the sites (Fig. 4). But iguanas  
453 were also cooked, as shown by the rare traces of fire and cut marks observed on archaeological  
454 remains, which can also be correlated to historical literature sources. Indeed, the anonymous  
455 author from Carpentras who described 17<sup>th</sup> century Amerindians, explained that after being  
456 brought back to the village, the iguanas were burned to kill them and remove their skin before  
457 being dismembered (Anonyme de Carpentras (1618-1620) in Grunberg, 2013b). We observed  
458 rare fire marks on *Iguana* bones on the thinnest anatomical parts most exposed to fire (skull and  
459 extremities including sectioned tails). These marks could reflect the burning practices described  
460 by the anonymous Carpentras author (Anonyme de Carpentras (1618-1620) in Grunberg, 2013b).  
461 The rarity of such marks could also correspond to the practice of boiling described by the same  
462 author (Anonyme de Carpentras (1618-1620) in Grunberg, 2013b), or to drying or smoking the  
463 carcass, as often practiced by Amerindian populations. However, there is no mention of removing  
464 the tail; a practice clearly established on archaeological iguanas and observed by one of us (S.  
465 G.), along with the removal of the skin and extremities of the carcass just before cooking.

466 The rare digestion traces observed on archaeological remains are intense, easily visible, and only  
467 occur on small specimens, highlighting the particularity of these small remains, which clearly  
468 differ from the main size distribution. These remains could reflect the occasional human  
469 consumption of young iguanas but such small animals may also have been eaten by non-human

470 predators. Thus, for the digested remains found at the open-air archaeological sites in Anse à la  
471 Gourde, one of the most plausible hypotheses would be that these small iguanas were hunted by  
472 domestic dogs, since dogs occur in archaeological sites and were part of the daily life of pre-  
473 Columbian populations in the Guadeloupe Islands (Grouard, 2001; Grouard et al., 2013).  
474 Alternatively, some of the remains collected in cave deposits (Anse à l'Ecu, Morne-Rita and  
475 Cadet 3) may reflect predation by birds of prey.

#### 476 5.4 Size evolution of *Iguana delicatissima* over time

477 Several hundreds of years of pre-Columbian hunting do not seem to have impacted *I.*  
478 *delicatissima* populations, in contrast to the activities of modern human populations. Indeed,  
479 according to archaeological evidence, the size of iguanas seems to remain stable throughout the  
480 pre-Columbian period. Conversely, comparisons with modern data collected on Îlets de Petite  
481 Terre (Terre-de-Haut and Terre-de-Bas) and La Désirade, the only two islands in Guadeloupe  
482 still densely inhabited by *I. delicatissima*, show a possible significant decrease in size between  
483 pre-Columbian and modern times, estimated at about 20% of *I. delicatissima* SVL size. In  
484 addition, no present-day *I. delicatissima* equivalent in size to the largest archaeological iguanas  
485 has ever been measured, since the highest SVL ever recorded on a *I. delicatissima* specimen is  
486 only 430 mm SVL (from Dominica; Day et al., 2000), as opposed to a maximum of 550 mm SVL  
487 for the largest archaeological specimen. As a precaution we should nevertheless note that it is  
488 difficult to assess the reliability of extreme archaeological SVL values, especially for the largest  
489 archaeological specimens with a SVL of more than 500 mm. This is because such sizes exceed  
490 the size of the modern specimens used by Bochaton (2016) to construct SVL estimation  
491 equations. However, such very high sizes are close to the size of the iguanas described by Du

492 Tertre in Guadeloupe during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when a total length of 160 cm corresponds to an  
493 SVL of around 53 cm (Du Tertre, 1667).

494 However, although no equivalent sized *I. delicatissima* has ever been measured or collected, this  
495 does not mean that it never existed. Indeed, Lazell (1973) mentioned that the small size of *I.*  
496 *delicatissima* in museum specimens could be due to sampling bias. He also claimed that he saw  
497 large specimens in Les Saintes and Dominica, with an SVL of around 400-450 mm, an  
498 observation confirmed on Dominica where the largest modern iguanas attain a maximal SVL size  
499 of 428 mm (Knapp et al., 2016). Still, even if the accuracy of estimated past iguana size is  
500 difficult to assess, a significant decrease in the size of this lizard on the Guadeloupe Islands over  
501 the past few centuries seems likely. As a consequence, the decrease in squamate size during the  
502 Holocene previously highlighted by Pregill (1986) in other West-Indian squamates also seems to  
503 apply to *I. delicatissima* from the Guadeloupe Islands. This constitutes further evidence of the  
504 strong impact of human populations after the European colonization of these islands, where *I.*  
505 *delicatissima* populations were well established and healthy, as suggested by their large size,  
506 despite extensive exploitation by pre-Columbian hunters. These results differ from those obtained  
507 by Carlson and Keegan (2004) on Grand Turk Island (Greater Antilles), where pre-Columbian  
508 hunting seemed to result in a size diminution in rock iguanas, probably on account of over-  
509 exploitation on a relatively small island (only 18 km<sup>2</sup>). But this phenomenon concerns pre-  
510 ceramic populations relying largely on terrestrial fauna for food sources (40% of the MNI of the  
511 Grand Turk Island site corresponds to iguanas). Conversely, the archaeological sites concerned  
512 by our study concern more recent ceramic cultures that rely mainly on marine resources and  
513 squamate remains represent a very minor part of the osteological assemblages (below 6% and  
514 often less than 1% of the vertebrate remains collected in each site [de Waal, 2006; Grouard, 2010,



515 2007, 2001; Bochaton, work in progress]). Up until now, few data were available concerning the  
516 pre-ceramic cultures and their subsistence strategies on the Guadeloupe Islands, and iguanas from  
517 these periods, as well as from pre-anthropic periods, remain unknown to us.

## 518 6. Conclusion

519 Our data clearly show that populations of *Iguana delicatissima*, were formerly present on all of  
520 the Guadeloupe Islands during pre-Columbian times and that at the same period, the invasive  
521 species, *I. iguana* was absent, confirming that it was introduced to this archipelago during the  
522 past few centuries. Iguanas were the object of selection focusing on large specimens by pre-  
523 Columbian hunters, as attested by the size reconstruction of archaeological specimens. The meat  
524 from these lizards was cooked and consumed by Amerindians, as described in historical sources  
525 recounting the daily life of 17<sup>th</sup> century Caribbean Amerindians. Hunting by pre-Columbian  
526 hunters had no visible effect on past iguana populations. However, comparisons with modern  
527 data demonstrate that *I. delicatissima* is now extinct on most of the Guadeloupe Islands and is  
528 20% smaller on the islands where it still occurs. This fact highlights the massive impact of  
529 European and historical populations on these large lizards, which mostly became extinct or  
530 underwent a drastic decrease in body size over the past three centuries. Such phenomena  
531 impacting iguanas were also observed using archaeological or subfossil data for several other  
532 taxa in the Caribbean (MacPhee, 2009; Steadman et al., 2015; Stoetzel et al., 2016) and in other  
533 geographic areas (Grayson, 2001; Nakamura et al., 2013; Steadman, 1995). They provide further  
534 evidence of the strong impact of modern societies on fauna in the context of the current  
535 biodiversity crisis (Barnosky et al., 2011; Burney and Flannery, 2005; Ceballos et al., 2015).

536 Similar studies to ours would allow for the observation of past hitherto hidden or inaccurately  
537 recorded phenomena, such as the timing of colonization, spatio-temporal morphological changes  
538 throughout time or the natural or human-mediated introduction of exogenous species. They  
539 would also lead to the testing of several hypotheses based on modern data. However, with regard  
540 to archaeological lizards and snakes, such studies are extremely rare (de Buffrénil and Hemery,  
541 2007; Klemens and Thorbjarnarson, 1995; Monchot et al., 2014) and much work remains to be  
542 done in order to elucidate recent squamate history and interactions of these animals with past  
543 human populations all over the world.

544

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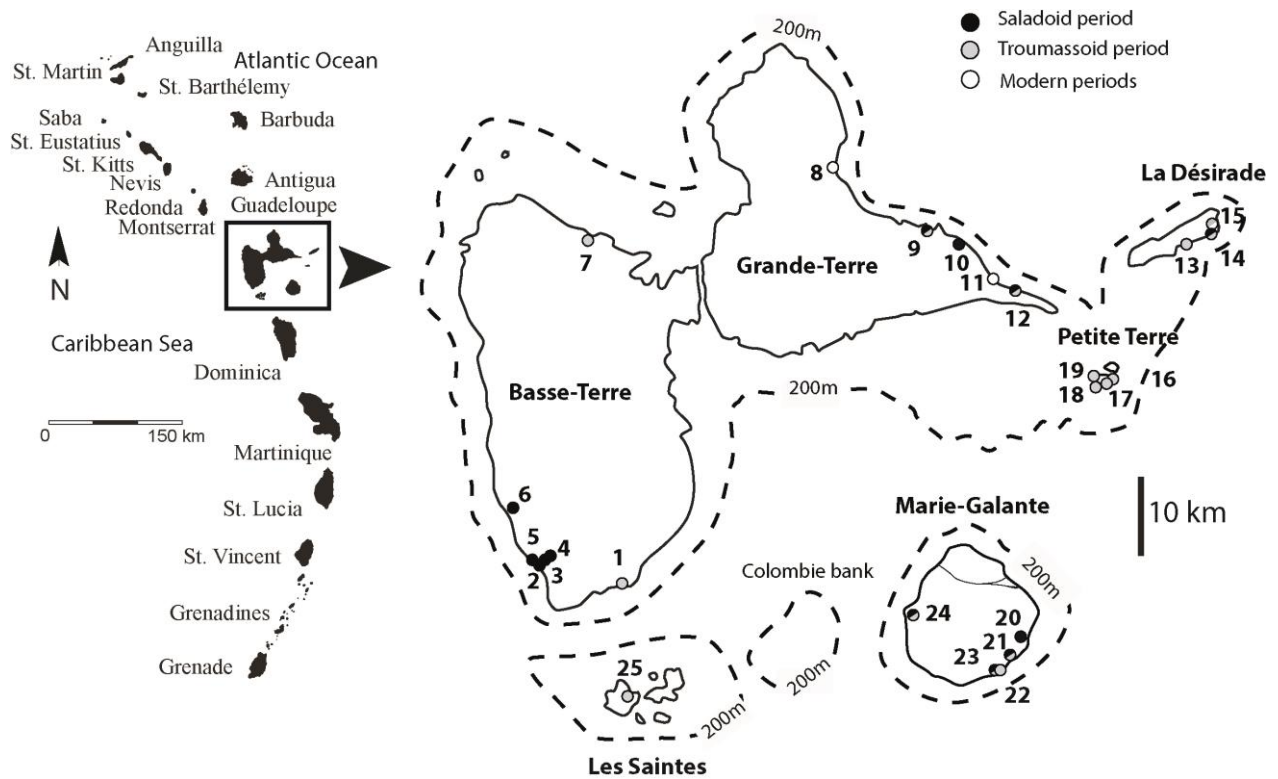
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Island	Site	Date	<i>Iguana delicatissim</i>	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	<i>Iguana sp.</i>	NR tot.	MNI
Basse-Terre	24, rue Schoelcher	Early Saladoid	2	0	2	4	1
	Cathédrale de Basse-Terre	Early Saladoid	31	0	122	153	6
	Embouchure de la Rivière Baillif	Late Saladoid	0	0	1	1	1
	Gare Maritime	Early Saladoid	143	2	361	506	14
	Grande-Anse Trois Rivières	Late Troumassoid	0	0	1	1	1
	Place Saint-François	Early Saladoid	0	0	1	1	1
	Sainte-Rose La Ramée	Early Troumassoid	19	0	166	185	4
	<b>Total island</b>		195	2	654	851	28
Grande-Terre	Anse à la Gourde	Late Saladoid-Late Troumassoid	36	0	388	424	8
	Anse à l'Eau	Late Saladoid	6	0	18	24	3
	Grotte de l'Anse à l'Ecu	Modern	0	0	1	1	1
	Grotte de l'Anse à la Gourde	Modern	1	0	4	5	1
	Morel	Early Saladoid – Troumassoid	5	0	49	54	4
	<b>Total island</b>		48	0	460	508	17
La Désirade	A l'Escalier	Troumassoid	2	0	19	21	1
	Petite Rivière	Late Saladoid –Early	10	0	132	142	7
	Pointe Gros Rempart 6	Modern	0	0	2	2	1
	<b>Total island</b>		12	0	153	165	9
Petite-Terre	Baleine Sud	Troumassoid	2	0	10	12	1
	Caille à Bélasse	Late Troumassoid	77	0	201	278	4
	Mouton de Bas	Troumassoid	5	0	20	25	1
	Site du phare	Troumassoid	0	0	4	4	1
	<b>Total island</b>		84	0	235	319	7
Marie-Galante	Grotte Blanchard	Late Troumassoid	3	0	4	7	1
	Abri Cadet 3	Archaic, Late Troumassoid	1	0	0	1	1
	Folle Anse	Early Saladoid-Troumassoid	1	0	4	5	1
	Grotte du Morne Rita	Archaic-Saladoid	0	0	2	2	1
	Tourlourous - Stade José Bade	Late Saladoid-Early and Late	63	1	312	376	14
	<b>Total island</b>		68	1	322	391	18
Les Saintes	Grande-Anse de Terre de Bas des Saintes	Late Troumassoid	0	0	2	2	1
	<b>Total island</b>		0	0	2	2	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>407</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1826</b>	<b>2236</b>	<b>80</b>

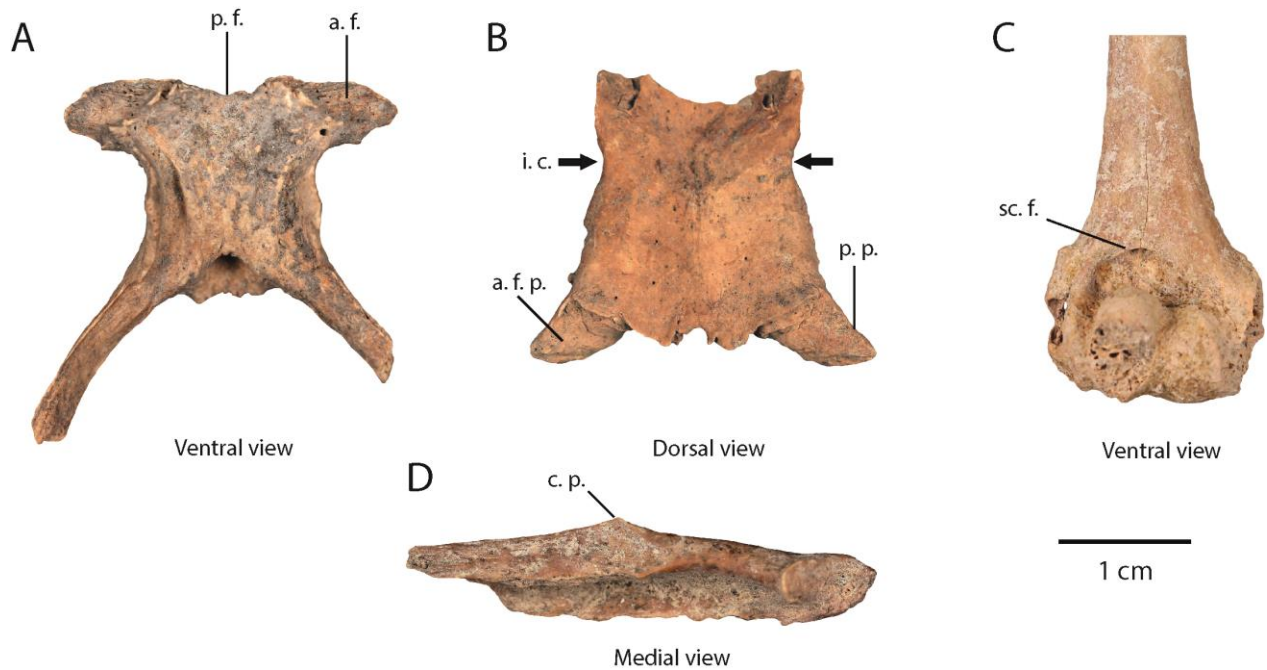


782 Table 1: Number of *Iguana* remains (NR) collected from each archaeological site along with their  
 783 attribution to *I. delicatissima*, *I. iguana* or *Iguana* sp. and Minimal Number of Individuals (MNI).  
 784 Cultural attribution of each deposit is also indicated: Archaic= 2000 - 500 BC, Saladoid = AD 80  
 785 - 900, Troumassoid = AD 900 - 1490, Modern=1493 – present.



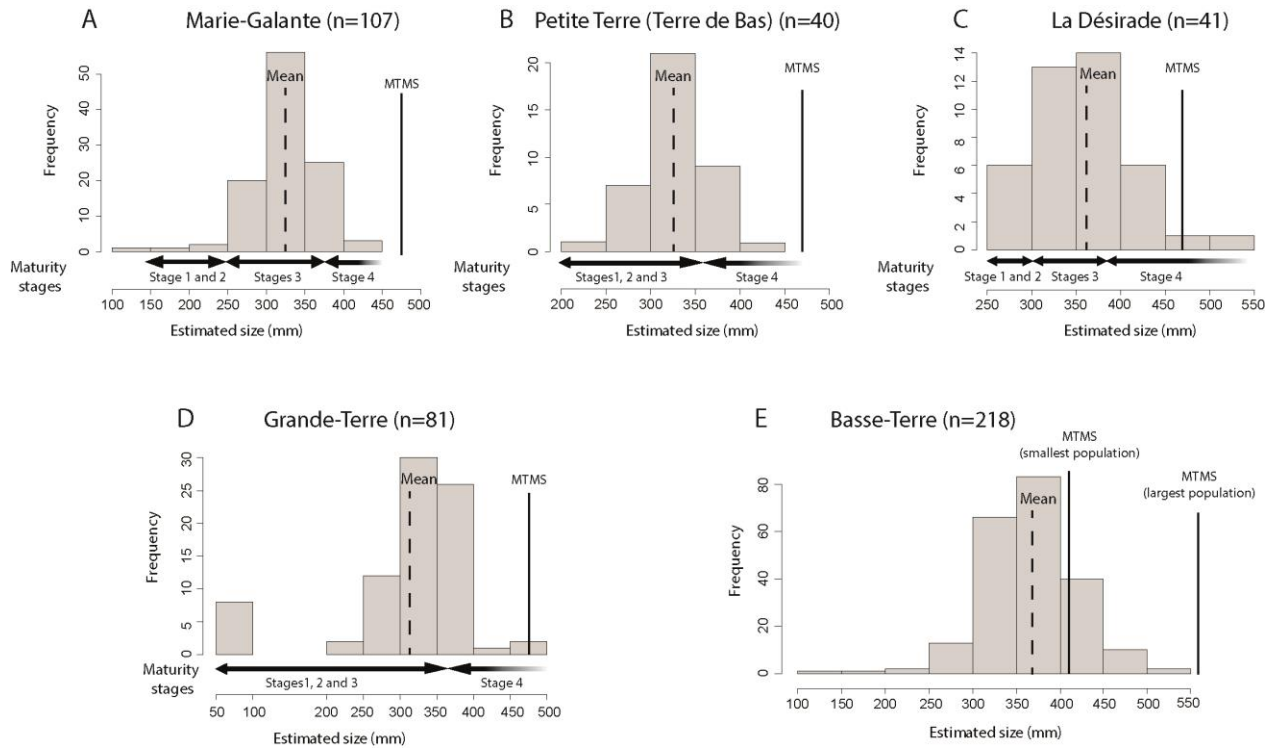
786  
 787 Figure 1: Map of the Lesser Antilles and focus on the Guadeloupe Islands with isobaths (-200m)  
 788 from Münch et al. (2013) and location of the studied archaeological sites with their chronological  
 789 attributions (Saladoid period (AD 80 - 900), Troumassoid period (AD 900 - 1500) or Modern  
 790 period (AD 1493 – present): 1: Grande-Anse Trois Rivières; 2: 24, rue Schoelcher; 3: Place  
 791 Saint-François; 4: Cathédrale de Basse-Terre; 5: Gare Maritime de Basse-Terre; 6: Embouchure  
 792 de la Rivière Baillif; 7: Sainte-Rose La Ramée; 8: Grotte de l'Anse à l'Ecu; 9: Morel; 10: Anse à  
 793 l'Eau; 11: Grotte de l'Anse à la Gourde; 12: Anse à la Gourde; 13: A l'Escalier; 14: Petite Rivière;  
 794 15: Pointe Gros Rempart 6; 16: Site du phare; 17: Baleine Sud; 18: Caille à Bélasse; 19: Mouton

795 de Bas; 20: Grotte du Morne Rita; 21: Tourlourous - Stade José Bade; 22: Grotte Blanchard; 23:  
796 Abri Cadet 3; 24: Folle Anse; 25: Grande-Anse de Terre de Bas des Saintes.



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798 Figure 2: Examples of *Iguana* bone remains from the Gare Maritime site (Basse Terre),  
799 presenting the *I. delicatissima* characters described by Bochaton et al., (2016b): A) Parietal with  
800 an inconspicuous pineal foramen (p. f.) and two clearly visible articular facets with the frontal (a.  
801 f.) in ventral view (US1008); B) Frontal with weak interorbital constriction (i.c.), posterolaterally  
802 oriented posterior processes (p. p.) and articular facet with the dorsally oriented parietal (a.f.p.)  
803 (US1008); C) Humerus with foramen of the supracondylar fossa (sc. f.) largely open (US1008);  
804 D) Surangular with pointed coronoid process (c. p.) (US1011).

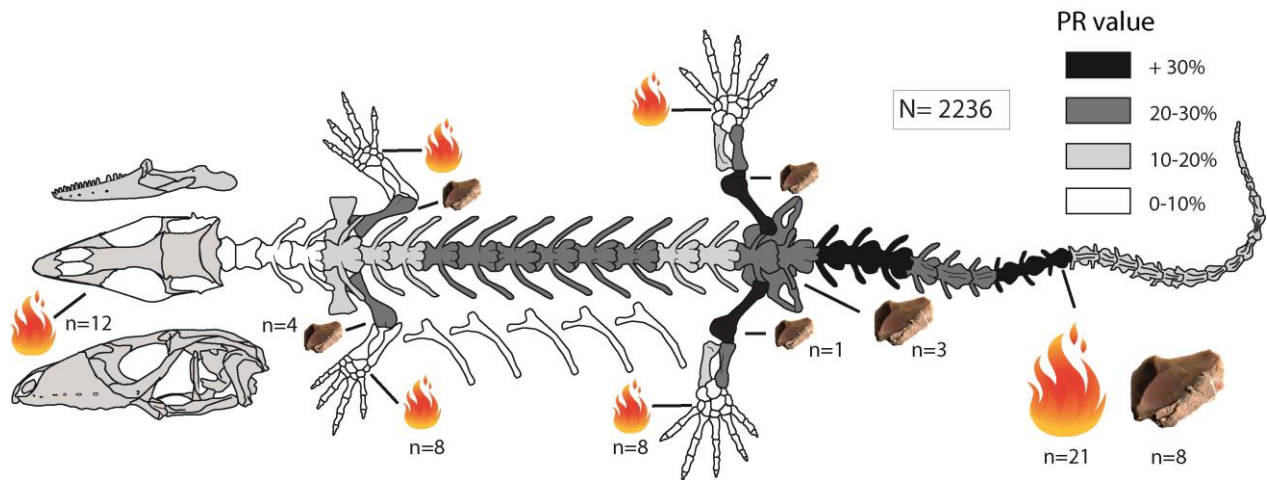
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808 Figure 3: Distribution of estimated SVL size (in millimeters) obtained on archaeological *Iguana*  
 809 remains from A: Marie-Galante, B: Îlets de Petite Terre, C: La Désirade, D: Grande-Terre and E:  
 810 Basse Terre islands. The Minimal Theoretical Maximal Size (MTMS) is provided for each island  
 811 along with the correspondence between size and skeletal maturity stages defined by Bochaton  
 812 (2016).

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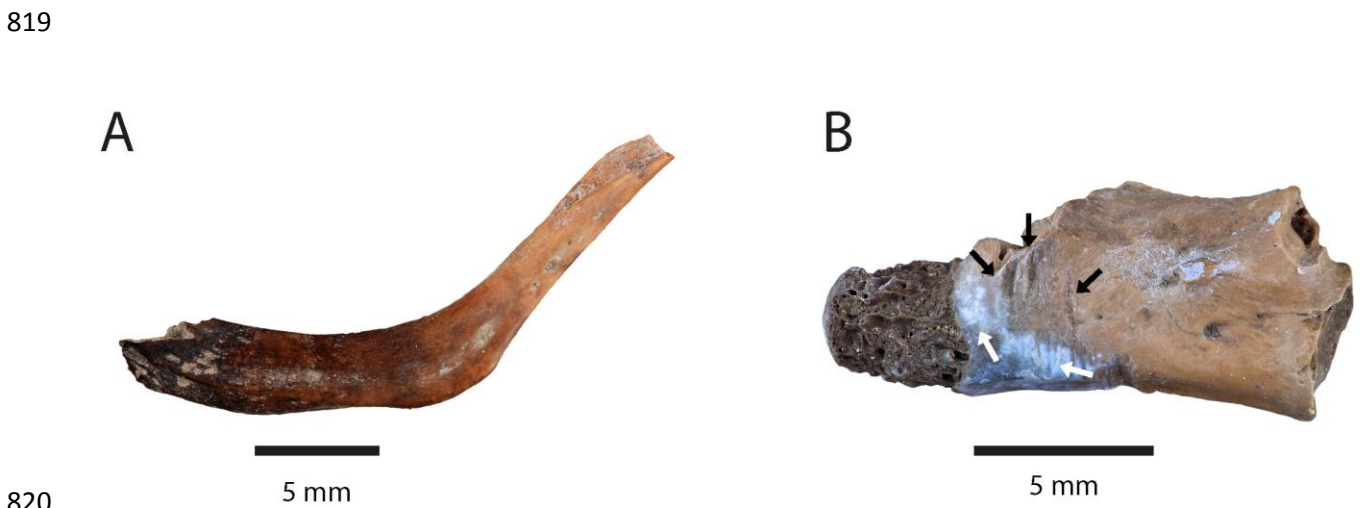
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815 Figure 4: Anatomical distribution of *Iguana* remains from the 25 sites with PR value (Dodson

816 and Wexlar 1989) for each anatomical part along with the occurrence of fire traces (fire symbol)

817 and cut marks (modern flint tool symbol) on the extremities of the skeleton (skeleton drawing

818 modified from Coutureau, 2004).



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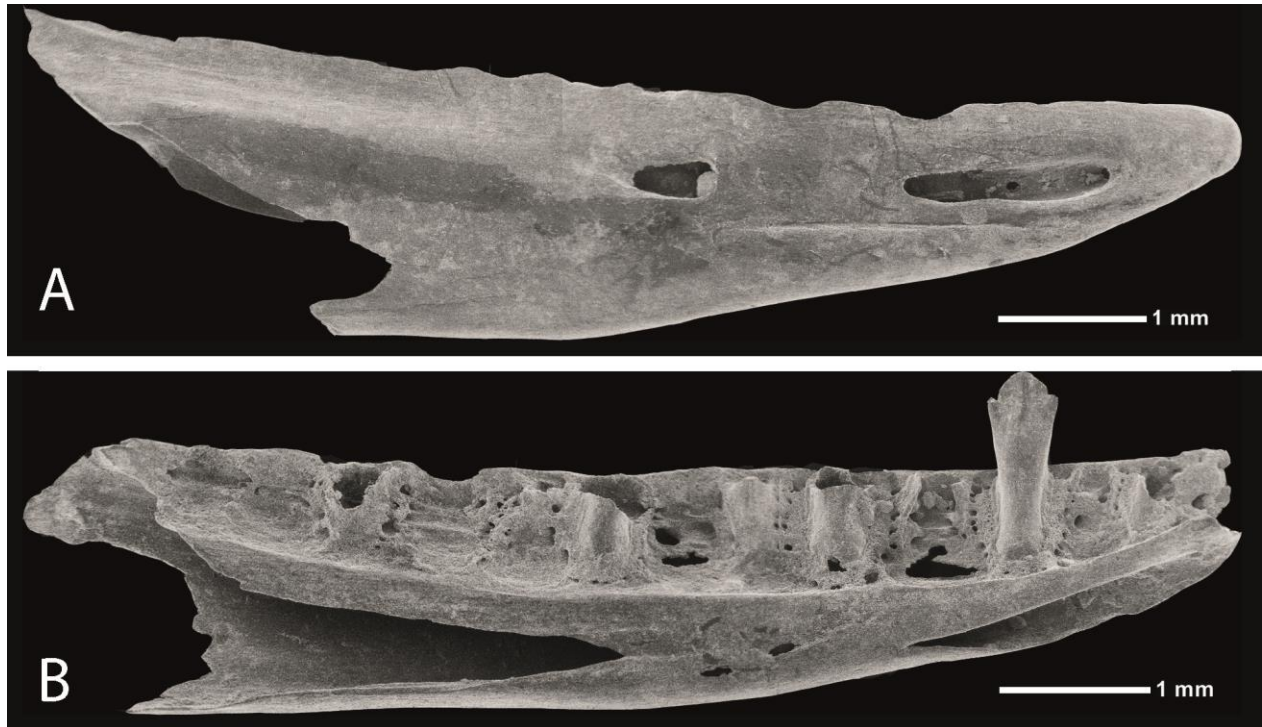
822 Figure 5: A) Half-burnt (black) left jugal bone of *I. delicatissima* from Caille à Bélasse site

823 (Square O51c – dec11). B) Caudal vertebra of *I. delicatissima* in lateral view with white burning

824 traces (white arrows) and cut marks (black arrows) showing the removal of the tail from Anse à  
825 la Gourde site (year 1997- Z64 S93 C1 lvl 4).

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829 Figure 6: SEM pictures of digested dentaries of young *I. delicatissima* from Anse à la Gourde site  
830 (Year 1995-US6): A) labial view of a right dentary; B) lingual view of a left dentary.