Morelet’s Crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*)

*Crocodylus moreletii* occurs on the Atlantic regions of Central America (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala). It rarely exceeds 3 m in length, and typically inhabits freshwater lagoons, streams and swamps, and sometimes rivers. In the dry season individuals sometimes burrow into mud banks, to wait for the wet season.

Females lay their eggs (20-45) in a mound nest, usually a few metres from water, although some nests are constructed on floating rafts of vegetation. In Mexico nesting occurs in April-June. Hatchlings are about 17 cm long when they hatch, and are guarded by the female for a time.

The belly skin of *C. moreletii* lacks osteoderms, thus it has been intensively hunted for its skin. Habitat modification is also a threat, particularly when it allows hunters access to crocodile refuges.