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## Vitae

Jesús A. Rivas was born in Caracas, Venezuela on February the 13<sup>th</sup>, 1964. He attended to the Universidad Central de Venezuela where he obtained his undergraduate degree in Biology. Since the beginning of his undergraduate career in 1980, Mr. Rivas worked actively in the University's Fire department as a firefighter while working in his undergraduate degree. In 1986 and 1987 he was an intern at the Venezuela Fish and Wildlife Service (Profauna). For his undergraduate thesis he studied the foraging ecology of the green iguana (*Iguana iguana*) in an extensive study which included the stomach contents analysis of more than 300 animals. Upon graduation on 1990, he was involved as a field assistant in several research projects of the biology of the Venezuelan fauna, including the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hoatzin (*Opisthocomus hoazin*), Orinoco crocodile (*Crocodylus intermedius*), and spectacled caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*). With funding from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), he also continued his research on the biology of the green iguana involving population dynamics, reproductive biology, and social antipredator behavior of neonates.

In 1992 he started an ambitious field project on the life history of the green anaconda sponsored by the Convention for the International Trade of Endangered Species, WCS and Profauna, that later developed into his Ph.D. research, when he joined the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1993. He has recently been hired by Boston University to teach a field-based course of Tropical Ecology in Ecuador while a publishing company considers the publication of this dissertation as a book,