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Lizards Prefer Islands, At Risk With Climate Change, Survey Suggests				Jump to: select topic:		Ga > options
Science Daily — A comprehensive survey of lizards on islands around the world has confirmed what island biologists and seafaring explorers have long observed: Animals on islands are much more abundant than their counterparts on the mainland.						JobStream Quick Search
Besides confirming that lon observation, the study sign alarm for island populations rapidly warming world. It su that climate change may ha devastating consequences and other animals that inha because their ecosystems more sensitive than those of mainland to change.	als an i in a ggests ive for lizards bit islands are much			www.TripAdvisor.com <u>St. John Condominiu</u> Inexpensive rentals of popular resort. www.stjohncondos.com <u>Visit the Faroe Island</u>	condominiums at St. John's most <u>S</u> 007 North Atlantic Travel Specialist	Science Jobs R&D - PhD, Medical Science Liaison - Kansas City & St.
Details of the study conduction biologists at the University California, San Diego will a paper slated for publication June issue of the journal Er Letters, available online in	of ppear in a in the cology The	Tenerife lizard, Gallotia in the Canary Islands and		Hip Hotels in Canarie		Wherever you are,
We found that island populess resistant to biological i which will likely increase dr with changing climate," say Jetz, an assistant professo biological sciences at UCS co-author of the study.	ations are liza nvasions, Hu amatically s Walter Ads of Cand a Re Tak	rd populations studied. ((rlbert) by Google verse Global Warming se Real Action on Climate	Credit: Credit: Allen Advertise on this site	e if i	do I know m good?	Debbie Macomber takes you
"Climate change will drive a move to new places," says Buckley, a postdoctoral fell Santa Fe Institute who is scholar at UCSD and the o co-author of the study. "Ou suggests that those animal	Inimals to ww Lauren ow at the Glo visiting On- her Lea r research ww	ur Carbon Footprint. w.DriveNeutral.org bal Warming Articles e Easy Place For Current ding Publishers! w.MyWire.com bal Warming	/Archived Articles From	I we		home.

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Jetz and Buckley gathered 643 estimates of lizard abundance from

In addition to their increased

vulnerable than those on the

mainland to sea level rise and

expected by many scientists to

sensitivity to biological invasions,

populations on islands are more

increased storm activity, which are

become worse as a result of global

islands.'

warming.

move to islands can strongly affect

the sensitive animal communities on

around the world for their survey, the first extensive global study of island densities for any animal group. Analyzing these estimates, they determined that lizards were consistently more than ten times more abundant on islands than on the mainland.

Previous research conducted by Ted Case at UCSD and others on small groups of islands had found that islands' limited areas and isolation can reduce predation and competition pressures. As a result, island animals were able to reach exceptionally high densities.

In their study, Jetz and Buckley confirmed that reduced numbers of predators and competitors accompany high lizard densities on islands across the world. The two biologists concluded that an average acre of mainland contains 52 lizards while an island acre contains 777 lizards. This difference in density persisted when the scientists controlled for location and environmental conditions.

"The ecology of islands is particularly important because, while the world's more than 100,000 islands constitute only 7 percent of the global land surface, they contain many of the earth's species with numerous species restricted to single islands," says Buckley. "500 million people depend on island ecosystems for their food and livelihoods.

The study suggests that islands are particularly sensitive to the loss and gain of species.

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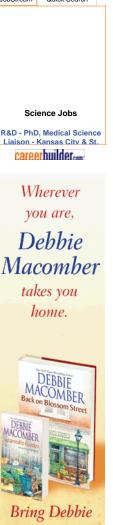
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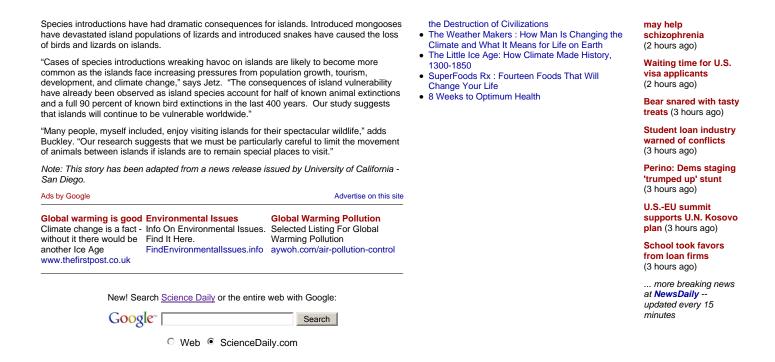
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