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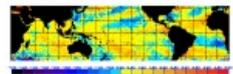
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### Climate

NOAA/CIRES 303 Ananda (Spring 13, 11/6/2013)



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## Cold-weather lizards facing climate crunch

Posted on **March 9, 2013** by Bob Berwyn

*Dozens of species could be doomed to extinction*



Climate change is likely to drive dozens of lizard species to extinction. *Photo courtesy USFWS.*

By Summit Voice

FRISCO—Lizards that give birth to live young may be headed for a climatic cul-de-sac in the next 50 years, according to a new study by scientists with the University of Exeter and the University of Lincoln.

“Climate change must not be underestimated as a threat to modern patterns of biodiversity,” said University of Exeter biologist Dr. [Dave Hodgson](#). “Our work shows that lizard species which birth live young instead of laying eggs are restricted to cold climates in South America ... high in the Andes or towards the South Pole. As the climate warms, we predict that these special lizard species will be forced to move upwards and towards the pole, with an increased risk of extinction.”

The viviparous lizards — one of the most diverse groups of vertebrates on earth — have been able to adapt to cooler ecological niches, but their evolutionary adaptation means they remain restricted to cold climates.

By analysing this evolutionary transition in the lizards’ reproductive modes and projecting the future impact of climate change, the scientists discovered that increasing temperatures in the species’ historically cold habitats would result in their areas of distribution being significantly reduced. As a consequence, if global warming continues at the same rate, viviparous lizards are facing extinction in the next few decades.

“Lizards’ reproduction is largely linked to climatic temperatures and viviparous species are usually found in cold environments,” said lead author Dr. Daniel Pincheira-Donoso, with the University of Lincoln’s School of Life Sciences.

“When reptiles initially moved to colder areas they needed to evolve emergency measures to succeed in these harsh places, and we believe viviparity is one of these key measures,” said Pincheira-Donoso, one of a few researchers who works on the ecology and evolution of these lizard species.

“However, this transition is mostly one-directional and unlikely to be reversed. Rapid changes in the environment’s temperature would demand rapid re-adaptations to secure the species’ survival. Through the research we found that over the next 50 years nearly half of the area where these species occur may disappear, causing multiple extinctions due to climate change.”

“These lizards are one of the most diverse groups of animals, and are able to adapt to remarkably diverse conditions. Unfortunately, a reduction in cold environments will reduce their areas of existence, which means that their successful evolutionary history may turn into a double-edged sword of adaptation. Their extinctions would be an atrocious loss to biodiversity,” he said.

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### NY Times

[Kenyatta Wins Kenyan Presidential Vote](#) March 9, 2013

The election commission said Saturday that Uhuru Kenyatta had received 50.07 percent of the vote, but the other top contender, Raila Odinga, indicated that he would not concede defeat.

[Egyptian Court Confirms Death Sentences in 2012 Soccer Riot](#) March 9, 2013

Twenty-one people had been sentenced to death for their roles in the deadly 2012 soccer riot that killed more than 70 people in the city of Port Said.

[Blast Hits Afghan Capital Shortly After Hagel Arrives](#) March 9, 2013

As suicide bombing at the Afghan defense ministry killed nine people just hours after Chuck Hagel, the new United States defense secretary, arrived in the city.

[India Ink: Newswallah: Bharat Edition](#) March 9, 2013  
Around-up of news from across India.

The research is published in the peer-reviewed journal *Global Ecology and Biogeography* and was funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

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## Colorado

### Independent

[Udall Endorses Brennan for CIADirector, Underlines](#)

[Need for Greater Oversight](#)

March 7, 2013

In the wake of an historic Senate filibuster over the murky U.S. laws governing drone strikes, Colorado Senator Mark Udall on Thursday urged his colleagues to confirm John Brennan as the new director of the CIA.

[Feds Probe Denver for Violating Deaf Prisoner](#)

[Rights](#) March 4, 2013

The federal Justice Department is investigating Denver for failing to provide sign-language interpreters for deaf prisoners.

Investigators are seeking to determine whether Denver — which touts itself as “one of America’s most accessible cities” — is violating the Americans with Disabilities Act.

[Sequester Could Lead to Large Cuts to AIDS](#)

[Treatment Programs](#)

February 28, 2013

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program is among the many federal programs that will take a hit if \$85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts go through March 1, and those cuts could potentially lead to an increase in HIV

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transmission, the White House said Sunday in a report on the anticipated state-by-state impacts of the so-called sequester.

[Attorneys, Scholars Raise Questions about Constitutionality of Colorado Death Penalty](#) February 27, 2013

Colorado's death penalty is not only massively expensive, critics say it is also unconstitutional because it is so randomly sought.

[Click here to view an events calendar presented by our partner, Colorado Summit Magazine.](#)

## **High Country News – Writers on the Range**

[Letting go of the comfortable](#)

A visit to his family's homestead reminds the author that we all hold on to the past, even if it is unnecessary.

*Jim Gearhart*

[Our national parks need room to breathe](#)

As the 100th anniversary of the national parks approaches, more than ever we need to protect their open space.

*Daniel Botkin and Alfred Runte*

[The beauty of the wood pile](#)

A fresh-chopped mountain of wood is the prettiest site in the world.

*Charles Finn*

## **Denver Post News**

[Adams County mom pleads guilty to killing baby, tossing him in trash](#) March 9, 2013

BRIGHTON — It took 53 days to find the remains of 7-month-old Torrey Brown Jr.

[School's culture shift earns Aurora assistant principal national honor](#) March 9, 2013

Matthew Willis remembers when the morning bell rang on his first day on the job four years ago at Hinkley High School — and nobody went to class.

[Colorado senator posts financials on proposed school finance formula](#)

March 9, 2013

Sen. Mike Johnston, who planned to formally introduce legislation to revamp Colorado's school finance system on Friday, has released district-by-district projections that he says make everyone a winner — at least for a while.

[Colorado gun bills: Marathon session stirs strong emotions](#) March 9, 2013

Asomber state Senate debated gun control measures for hours Friday in an historic showdown that some Second Amendment activists fear will forever alter Colorado's western image.

[Colorado gun bills: Conceal-carry on campus ban killed by sponsor](#) March 9, 2013

Amid flagging support from his own party, the Democratic sponsor of a bill banning concealed weapons on college campuses spiked his own bill Friday night on the floor of the Colorado Senate.

[Avalanche ends Blackhawks' historic streak with 6-2 victory](#)

March 9, 2013

The Streak finally struck out. The Avalanche, those dragon slayers, finally slew the beast that was the Chicago Blackhawks' 30-game points streak.