



Antonio Meza

Thesis Defense
College of Science & Engineering
Technology
Biological Sciences
MS in Biology

Variation in the Cranial Osteology in the Genus *Zygaspis*

Amphisbaenians are a group of limbless, fossorial reptiles that are recognized today as a highly specialized group of lizards. In this project, the inter- and intraspecific variation of the cranial osteology of seven of the eight currently recognized species of the amphisbaenian genus *Zygaspis* was assessed and unique morphological features among them were identified. A total of 15 specimens from the seven species were micro-CT scanned (*Z. quadrifrons* (5), *Z. vandami* (2), *Z. nigra* (2), *Z. violacea* (2), *Z. dolichomenta* (1), *Z. ferox* (1) and *Z. kafuensis* (2)). The software program Avizo 9.7.0 was used to digitally isolate the individual cranial bones of each specimen. The cranial anatomy of *Z. quadrifrons* has been previously described, providing a baseline for comparison to other *Z. quadrifrons* specimens and to the remaining species of the genus.

Event Information

3/29/22
12:30pm
LSB 400M

Committee Members

Dr. Patrick J. Lewis
Dr. Monte Thies
Dr. Juan Daza
Dr. Christopher J. Bell



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PUBLIC DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT