

MAY 2, 1978

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PROFESSOR
G. CAUSEY WHITTOW
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DEAR PROF. WHITTOW

I WOULD LIKE TO INQUIRE ABOUT
YOUR RESEARCH WITH THE THERMAL
ECOLOGY OF MONK SEALS AND
GREEN SEA TURTLE. I'M ALSO
INTERESTED IN THIS AREA. I AM
INVOLVED IN AN INTERDISCIPLINARY
STUDY OF ISLA MUJERES, QUINTANA ROO,
MEXICO, WHICH IS A FORMER BREEDING
GROUND OF THE CARIBBEAN MONK,
AND STILL SURVIVING GREEN ROOKERY.

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THE BEST THAT I CAN GATHER FROM CARIBBEAN SEA TURTLE RESEARCH IS THAT GREENS ARE RARELY SEEN BASKING "ON THE LAND" TODAY, THOUGH THEY DID SO IN EARLIER TIMES. AS INDICATED BY PARSONS (1902). ANTHROPOLOGICAL MATERIAL OF ANCIENT INHABITANTS OF THE ISLAND INDICATES THEY VIEWED THE GREEN'S STATIONARY BASKING WITH GREAT ESTEEM AND ATTACHED A GREAT DEAL OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE TO IT.

IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN ANY PAPERS ON THIS AREA OF THERMAL ECOLOGY I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD REFER ME TO THEM.

I AM ALSO SEEKING PHOTOGRAPH(S) BLACK AND WHITE, OF BASKING GREENS AND MONK SEALS ON LAND TO PRESENT IN A SCHOLARLY MANUSCRIPT.

SINCERELY
RAY CLARK

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pacific Biomedical Research Center

May 8, 1978

Mr. Ray Clarke
949 N. Alfred Street #9
Los Angeles, CA 90069

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Thank you for your letter. I was particularly interested in your remarks on the religious significance of basking. I have not published anything on the turtle yet, as I have not been working on their basking behavior for very long. I am, in fact, collaborating with George H. Balazs of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii. While I am interested in a number of problems in the thermal ecology of several species of animals, George is specifically interested in turtles and knows a great deal more about them than I do. I suggest that you write to him.

I have a paper in press on the Monk Seal; I shall send you a reprint when they become available. I don't have any black and white prints of Monk Seals; I could have one made from a color slide. Where will your manuscript be published?

Sincerely,

G. Causey Whittow

G. Causey Whittow
Professor of Physiology