

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2002 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s) **Project Number** Mark A. Herron **S1910 Project Title Isolation and Sequencing of Mitochondrial DNA Abstract Objectives/Goals** The objective in this project is to determine whether the amount of variation present within a population is sufficient to warrant a separation of the group into various species. Methods/Materials DNA was isolated, purified, quantified, and visualized. Once the DNA purity was varified, isolates were exposed to PCR condtions and specified primers were used to obtain an 1100bp sequence of the mitochondrial gerone. The sequences were then run through an ABI flourescent sequence. Lastly, the sequences were compared using various computer programs to analyze and determine the degree of variation. **Results** Ample variation was found to support the separation of the species into two distinct groups. **Conclusions/Discussion** Additional research must be done in order to support the findings from this preliminary project. **Summary Statement** My project was about finding the genetic variation within a large group of iguanas Help Received