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Zoo Baby Boom Continues With Hatching of 11 Itty-Bitty Lizards

December 20, 2017 – *Jacksonville, FL* – Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens (JZG) is continuing its baby boom, this time with 11 Taylor's shield-tailed agamas.

These tiny lizards, native to the Horn of Africa, are less than four-inches-long as adults and are around one centimeter in length when first hatched. They have distinctive round, spiky tail.

The 11 hatchlings are from two different clutches. They have different mothers but the same father. The first clutch of six agamas hatched between in late November and the second clutch of five hatched between December 8 and 11.

The mother of the second clutch of eggs was not able to lay her eggs and required intervention by Animal Hospital staff. Dr. Meredith Persky was successfully able to surgically remove five eggs from the mother, each about the size of a jelly bean and comprising 35% of her total body weight. That would be the equivalent of a 50 pound baby in a 140 pound mother! The mother is fully recovered; a testament to the care she received by the talented Animal Health and herpetology teams.

The tiny little lizards will live behind-the-scenes for now where they will be doted on by their adopted "Agama Mama," senior herpetology keeper Emily Fyfe. An adult Taylor's shield-tailed agama can be viewed in the African herp house.

[Dropbox link with stills and video](#)

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About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast Florida. **The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and a portion of every ticket sold goes to the over 45 conservation initiatives Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens supports around the world, and here in NE**

Florida. JZG is proud to be an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit jacksonvillezoo.org.