

Abstract

Parental care for offspring encompasses a variety of behaviors aimed at increasing the offspring's survival rate. However, as the care of the offspring requires a lot of energy it raises a conflict between the parents. It would be more advantageous for each parent to leave a larger portion of parental care to the other.

This would reduce the costs associated with care while increasing the success of gene transmission through offspring. This bachelor thesis describes parental care in several selected groups of animals. It reports the most common forms of parental care in these groups and, through individual examples, points out more complex or unusual forms and types of reproductive behavior. Examples are selected with consideration of similarities or differences with parental care in crocodiles.

In the second part of this work, I focus on the order of Crocodylia, where parental care and acoustic communication are key elements of reproductive behavior and often determine the lives of crocodile offspring. I highlight similarities between crocodiles and their closest relatives, birds (Aves). Emphasis is placed on the analogy between crocodiles and birds and my observations suggest possibilities of ancestral behavior for the order Crocodylia and the entire group Archosauria. The result of the work is a table with all described species of crocodiles, their parental behavior, and the gender performing care for offspring.

Keywords: Parental care, crocodiles, Crocodylia, acoustic communication, parents, offspring