



Black Caiman



by Ellen Lawrence

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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

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Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Joyce Tavalacci

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Lawrence, Ellen, 1967– author.

Title: Black caiman / by Ellen Lawrence.

Description: New York, New York : Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., [2017] |

Series: Apex predators of the amazon rain forest | Audience: Ages 5–8. |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016044534 (print) | LCCN 2016050326 (ebook) | ISBN

9781684020324 (library) | ISBN 9781684020843 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Caimans—Juvenile literature. | Alligators—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC QL666.C925 L3935 2017 (print) | LCC QL666.C925 (ebook) |

DDC 597.98/4—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016044534>

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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Hidden Danger

It's early evening in the Amazon rain forest.

A tapir comes to a river to drink.

The tapir doesn't realize that danger is lurking just a few feet away.

Floating in the dark water is a giant black caiman.

Still and silent, the hungry **predator** watches the tapir—and then attacks!



tapir



black caiman



Caimans are
related to
alligators and
crocodiles.

Watery World


Black caimans live in parts of South America, including the Amazon rain forest.

They make their homes in ponds, lakes, and large rivers.

These creatures also live in smaller rivers that flow through the Amazon.

Often, they rest among the plants that grow along muddy riverbanks.



A black caiman is lying on the ground in a wetland area. The caiman has dark, scaly skin and its mouth is slightly open, showing sharp teeth. It is surrounded by green grass and tall, thin reeds. In the background, there is a body of water and a clear blue sky with some clouds.

Black caimans
also live in areas
known as wetlands.
In a wetland, shallow
water covers
the ground.

Look at this picture of a
caiman. Can you think of five
words to describe the animal?