

# Cuban Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) in St. Maarten

Axel Fläschendräger  
Halle, Germany (Axel.Flaeschendraeger@t-online.de)

Photographs by the author.

Cuban Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) are native to the Bahama Islands (Cay Sal, Conception, Crooked, Acklins, Grand Bahama, Little Bahama, Rum Cay, and San Salvador island banks), Cuba and associated cays, Isla de La Juventud, and Little Cayman, including most satellites and cays with even rudimentary vegetation. The species also has become established in Jamaica, either naturally or through human mediation. More recently introduced populations are known in Grand Cayman, Swan Island, Grenada, St. Vincent, the Grenadines (Canouan), Barbados, the Atlantic Coast of México as far as Belize, the Islas de la Bahía (off Honduras), Aruba, Hawaii (Oahu and Coconut Island, Kauai), Taiwan, the southeastern United States, and California (Orange County; Henderson and Powell 2009 and references therein). At least some introduced populations originated in the southeastern United States.

Within a 30-minute period on 2 March 2010, I observed three male and two female *Anolis sagrei* in and around the Philipsburg harbor in St. Maarten. St. Maarten is a major commercial center in the eastern Caribbean; a number of exotic species have been recorded there, and several (e.g., Cuban Treefrogs, *Osteopilus septentrionalis*; Green Iguanas, *Iguana iguana*) have become established (Powell et al. 2005).

Although I did not observe any juveniles, the abundance of observations in such a short period is suggestive of a breeding population. I did observe native Anguilla Bank Anoles (*Anolis gingivinus*) associated with ornamental vegetation in and around the harbor. I saw no evidence of competitive interactions, but the apparently restricted range of *A. sagrei* is suggestive of a recent arrival. Whether the newly established population remains largely restricted to severely altered habitats, as has been described on Grenada (Greene et al. 2002, Germano et al. 2003) and St. Vincent (Henderson and Powell 2005, Treglia 2006, Treglia et al. 2008) remains to be determined. The origin of the population on St. Maarten is unknown.

## Literature Cited

Germano, J.M., J.M. Sander, R.W. Henderson, and R. Powell. 2003. Herpetofaunal communities in Grenada: A comparison of altered sites, with an annotated checklist of Grenadian amphibians and reptiles. *Caribbean Journal of Science* 39:68–76.



Male (top) and female Cuban Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) from the Philipsburg harbor on St. Maarten. Photographic vouchers have been deposited in the Milwaukee Public Museum: MPM P745 (male) and MPM P746 (female). The identity of these lizards was confirmed from photographs by Robert W. Henderson.

- Greene, B.T., D.T. Yorks, J.S. Parmerlee, Jr., R. Powell, and R.W. Henderson. 2002. Discovery of *Anolis sagrei* in Grenada with comments on its potential impact on native anoles. *Caribbean Journal of Science* 38:270–272.
- Henderson, R.W. and R. Powell. 2005. Geographic distribution: *Anolis sagrei*. *Herpetological Review* 36:467.
- Henderson, R.W. and R. Powell. 2009. *Natural History of West Indian Reptiles and Amphibians*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
- Powell, R., R.W. Henderson, and J.S. Parmerlee, Jr. 2005. *Reptiles and Amphibians of the Dutch Caribbean: St. Eustatius, Saba, and St. Maarten*. St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation, Gallows Bay, St. Eustatius, Netherlands Antilles.
- Treglia, M.L. 2006. An annotated checklist of the amphibians and reptiles of St. Vincent, West Indies. *Iguana* 13:251–262.
- Treglia, M.L., A.J. Muensch, R. Powell, and J.S. Parmerlee, Jr. 2008. Invasive *Anolis sagrei* on St. Vincent and its potential impact on perch heights of *Anolis trinitatis*. *Caribbean Journal of Science* 44:251–256.

## Knight Anoles (*Anolis equestris*) on Grand Cayman Island

Mat DaCosta-Cottam, Kristan D. Godbeer, and Tim Austin

Department of Environment, Cayman Islands Environmental Centre, Grand Cayman (mat.cottam@gov.ky)

**K**night Anoles (*Anolis equestris*) are native to Cuba, but have become established in southern Florida (King and Krakauer 1966) and Hawaii (McKeown 1996). Secondary introductions from Florida, primarily with landscaping vegetation, have been documented for several species (e.g., Cuban Treefrogs, *Osteopilus septentrionalis*, and Cuban Brown Anoles, *A. sagrei*) on West Indian islands (Henderson and Powell 2009, and references therein).

On 8 June 2007, we found a Knight Anole on the grounds of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel on Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman Island (photographic voucher, Milwaukee Public Museum MPM P748, photograph by K.D. Godbeer, confirmed by A.C. Echternacht). Subsequently, an additional individual was collected in the Savannah area. Both presumably arrived from Florida with decorative plants. To date, we have no evidence that suggests the presence of a breeding population in the wild.

### Literature Cited

- Henderson, R.W. and R. Powell. 2009. *Natural History of West Indian Reptiles and Amphibians*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
- King, W. and T. Krakauer. 1966. The exotic herpetofauna of southeast Florida. *Quarterly Journal of the Florida Academy of Sciences* 29:144–154.
- McKeown, S. 1996. *A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians in the Hawaiian Islands*. Diamond Head Publishing, Los Osos, California.

A Knight Anole (*Anolis equestris*) from Florida, the presumed origin of the animals found on Grand Cayman.



STEVEN