

A New Rock Iguana from Porto Rico¹

Thomas Barbour

In 1917 Dr. G. M. Allen and Lieut. James Lee Peters visited Porto Rico in the interest of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. They explored with great success a large cave near Ciales and found in the floor, under an opening in the high domed roof, a considerable number of both mammal and reptile bones.

The latter have recently been sorted out and substantiate the statement which I made some time ago (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 30, 1917, p. 98) when I said that I believed Dr. Allen had found jaws of *Cyclura*. In 1918 Miller (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., 54, 1918, p. 509, pl. 81) named *Cyclura mattea*² from shell heaps in St. Thomas, — a species which proves to be very closely related indeed to the form which I am about to name. It is perhaps not remarkable that the Rock Iguana evidently became extinct in Porto Rico at an early time. It was probably exterminated by the considerable population of Porto Rican Indians before the Conquest, because no tradition of its existence seems to remain amongst either living inhabitants or in the literature. The description of this species likewise fills the last considerable gap in the known distribution of the genus and confirms the surmise ventured by Mr. Noble and myself that Rock Iguanas had formerly been much more widely distributed than their present dispersal would indicate. The limits of the range of the genus coincided exactly with those of the Greater Antillean subregion, including the Bahaman province and thus the distribution of the genus becomes at once more suggestive as it becomes more completely definable.

This form may be known as *Cyclura portoricensis*, sp. nov.

Type, M.C.Z. No. 12,460, from the floor of the cave near Ciales, Porto Rico, collected by Allen and Peters in February, 1917; being the extremities of a left humerus.

Paratypes: A femur; tibia; two ulnae; a sacral and several dorsal vertebrae; several incomplete mandibles; as well as a number of other bones less perfect.

The extremities of a fully adult humerus are chosen for the type for comparison with the type of Miller's *C. mattea*, also a left humerus. The two species are evidently very closely related, more so with each other than with other neighboring species of *Cyclura*, viz., *pinguis* of Anegada or *stejnegeri* and *cornuta*. The species differs from *mattea* in being even larger and more massive. (Cf. Miller, l. c., pl. 81, fig. 4 and 5.) The bones figured herewith are life size as are those figured by Miller. The greatest diameter of the expanded proximal extremity of the type humerus (fig. G) is 35 mm. In an adult Cuban Rock Iguana (*C. macleayi*³) about three feet long (M.C.Z. 6915 Santiago de Cuba; Col. Wirt Robinson, coll.) the same dimension is 19 mm.

U.S.N.M. 59,359, humerus, paratype of *C. mattea*, is before me and in this example the distal expansion is 30 mm. and the proximal extremity though broken appears to be correspondingly smaller and less massive. The bicipital depression or radial fossa in *mattea* is very conspicuously deeper and more extensive than in *portoricensis*; in this respect the latter is even more like *stejnegeri* or *cornuta* than is *mattea*. This is what one would expect from its geographic station.

Portoricensis was so far as known the largest member of the entire genus.

I wish to thank Dr. Stejneger and Mr. Miller for permission to compare the paratype of *mattea* with the material in hand.

There is no reason to believe that man has played any part in the dispersal of *Cyclura*, as has beyond doubt been the case with the spreading of *Iguana* through the Antilles. The distribution of *Iguana* is absolutely haphazard, while that of *Cyclura*, as now definable, is typical of those forms which spread by non-fortuitous or natural means. *Cyclura* undoubtedly occurred in comparatively recent times on every suitable island which has remained of the once more extensive Greater

Antillean land. It is improbable that this list of species with their habitats could be the result of chance dispersal when it is considered that not one *Cylura* is found elsewhere

C. macleayi Gray, Cuba and surrounding Cayos.

C. caymanensis Barbour and Noble, Cayman Islands.

C. baeolopha Cope⁴, Andros Isl., Bahamas.

C. inornata Barbour and Noble⁵, Exuma Keys, Bahamas (extinct?).

C. rileyi Stejneger, Watlings Isl., Bahamas.

C. nuchalis Barbour & Noble⁶, Fortune Isl., Bahamas (extinct?).

C. carinata Harlan, Turks and Caicos Isls., Bahamas.

C. collei Gray, Jamaica and surrounding cays (extinct?).

C. cornuta (Bonnaterre), Haiti and neighboring islets.

C. nigerrima Cope⁷, Navassa Isl. (extinct?).

C. stejnegeri Barbour & Noble, Mona Isl.

C. portoricensis Barbour, Porto Rico (extinct).

C. mattea Miller, St. Thomas (extinct).

C. pinguis Barbour, Anegada (extinct?).

The existing place names and early literature and tradition prove that *Cyclura* was previously found upon many other Bahaman Islands where it has completely disappeared.



EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE.

A. Ventral view of left femur.

B. Ventral view of left tibia.

C. Dorsolateral view of left ulna.

D. Dorsolateral view of right ulna.

E. Posterior view of first sacral vertebra.

F. Dorsal view of distal extremity of left humerus.

G. Dorsal view of proximal extremity of left humerus.

¹ From the *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 32:145-148 (1919).

² Both *Cyclura mattea* and *C. portoricensis* are now considered synonyms of *C. pinguis*.

³ Now considered a synonym of *C. nubila*.

⁴ Now considered a synonym of *Cyclura cyclura cyclura*.

⁵ Currently considered a subspecies of *Cyclura cyclura*.

⁶ Currently considered a subspecies of *Cyclura rileyi*.

⁷ Now considered a synonym of *Cyclura onchiopsis*.