



INTRODUCED SPECIES

First State Record and Interdiction for the Wood Slave, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (Moreau de Jonnès 1818) (Gekkonidae), in Maryland, USA

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The Wood Slave, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (Moreau de Jonnès 1818; Fig. 1), is indigenous to Africa south of the Sahara, with nonindigenous populations established in Cape Verde, Mexico, much of Central and South America, numerous localities in the Caribbean, perhaps Madagascar, and at least 21 counties in Florida, USA (Carranza and Arnold 2006; Kraus 2009; Krysko et al. 2011a, 2011b; Meshaka 2011; Powell and Henderson 2012). Recently, *H. mabouia* has successfully invaded temperate regions of southern Africa and northern peninsular Florida (Alexander and Marais 2007, Krysko and Somma 2007).

On 20 December 2012, Brian R. Grogan and Shane Forsythe collected and photographed one adult *Hemidactylus mabouia* found inside a furniture-moving truck at 8909 Amelung Street, Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland,

USA (39.3315°N, 77.35878°W, datum WGS84, elev. 138 m) (photographic voucher UF-Herpetology 171112; Fig. 2). This is a first state interdiction for Maryland and the northernmost record for *H. mabouia* in North America and the Western Hemisphere. The vehicle was transporting household furniture and other items from 3352 West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida (26.72617°N, 80.14458°W), where nonindigenous *H. mabouia* is currently established (Krysko et al. 2011b). This Maryland voucher does not represent an established population, but illustrates how this species can be introduced to new areas. The fact that no produce or horticulture was involved indicates that *H. mabouia* can be transported without these products, a behavior shared with its highly invasive congener, the Mediterranean Gecko (*H. turcicus* [Linnæus 1758]; Selcer 1986).



Fig. 1. A Wood Slave, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (UF-Herpetology 171426), collected on 24 October 2013 in Palm Beach County, Florida. Photograph by Kenneth L. Krysko.



Fig. 2. Wood Slave, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (UF-Herpetology 171112), collected on 20 December 2012 in Frederick County, Maryland. Photograph by Brian R. Grogan.

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