



A Newly Discovered Population of the Cuban Ameiva, *Ameiva auberi* (Sauria: Teiidae), from Cayo Galindo in the Sabana Archipelago

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The Cuban Ameiva (*Ameiva auberi*) occurs in the Bahamas and the Cuban Archipelago, where it is common in open areas (Henderson and Powell 2009). This polytypic species currently comprises forty subspecies (12 Bahamian and 28 Cuban) and some populations have not been assigned to any subspecific taxon (Gali and Garrido 1986). The species is widely distributed in Cuba (Schwartz 1970, Schwartz and Henderson 1991, Estrada 2012, Rodríguez et al. 2013) but some areas, including many cays, have not been surveyed. Herein we report a newly discovered population of *A. auberi* on Cayo Galindo in the Sabana Archipelago of northwestern Cuba.

On 9 August 2012, we collected five adult *Ameiva auberi* (all males) during midday on Cayo Galindo (23.254631 N, 80.872544 W, WGS84; Fig. 1). All were active on intensely insolated rocky soil in an area of isolated herbaceous vegetation. We captured lizards with nooses. Voucher specimens (MFP 12574–12578) preserved in 70% ethanol are deposited in the Museum of Natural History “Felipe Poey” (Faculty of Biology, University of Havana).

Color and pattern of animals from Cayo Galindo (Fig. 2) differ in at least some respects from other described subspecies in northwestern Cuba (Schwartz 1970; Table 1): *Ameiva auberi abducta* from the Hicacos Peninsula, *A. a. pullata* from

northwestern Matanzas Province, *A. a. gemmea* from northwestern Villa Clara Province, and an undescribed subspe-

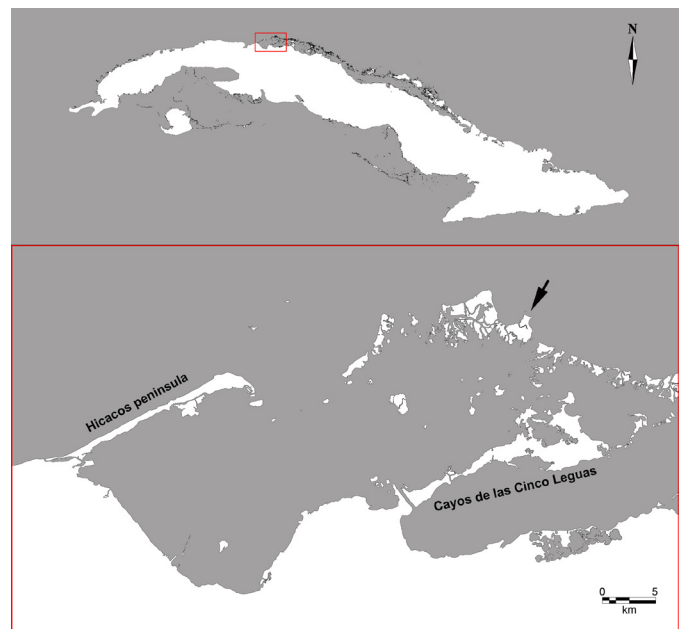


Fig. 1. Map showing the location of Cayo Galindo (arrow), Sabana Archipelago, in northwestern Cuba.

Table 1. Comparisons of color and pattern of the newly discovered population on Cayo Galindo (*) and subspecies of *Ameiva auberi* from northwestern Cuba (from Schwartz 1970).

Character	Taxon			
	<i>A. a. abducta</i>	<i>A. a. pullata</i>	<i>A. a. gemmea</i>	<i>A. auberi</i> *
Throat	yellow to orange	with black median spot	yellow to orange	peach
Dorsolateral lines	yes	yes	yes	no
Lateral fields	usually inconspicuous, black restricted to discrete vertical bars or blotches or absent	black restricted to series of vertical bars often absent anteriorly	prominent extensively black	dark bands not black continuous

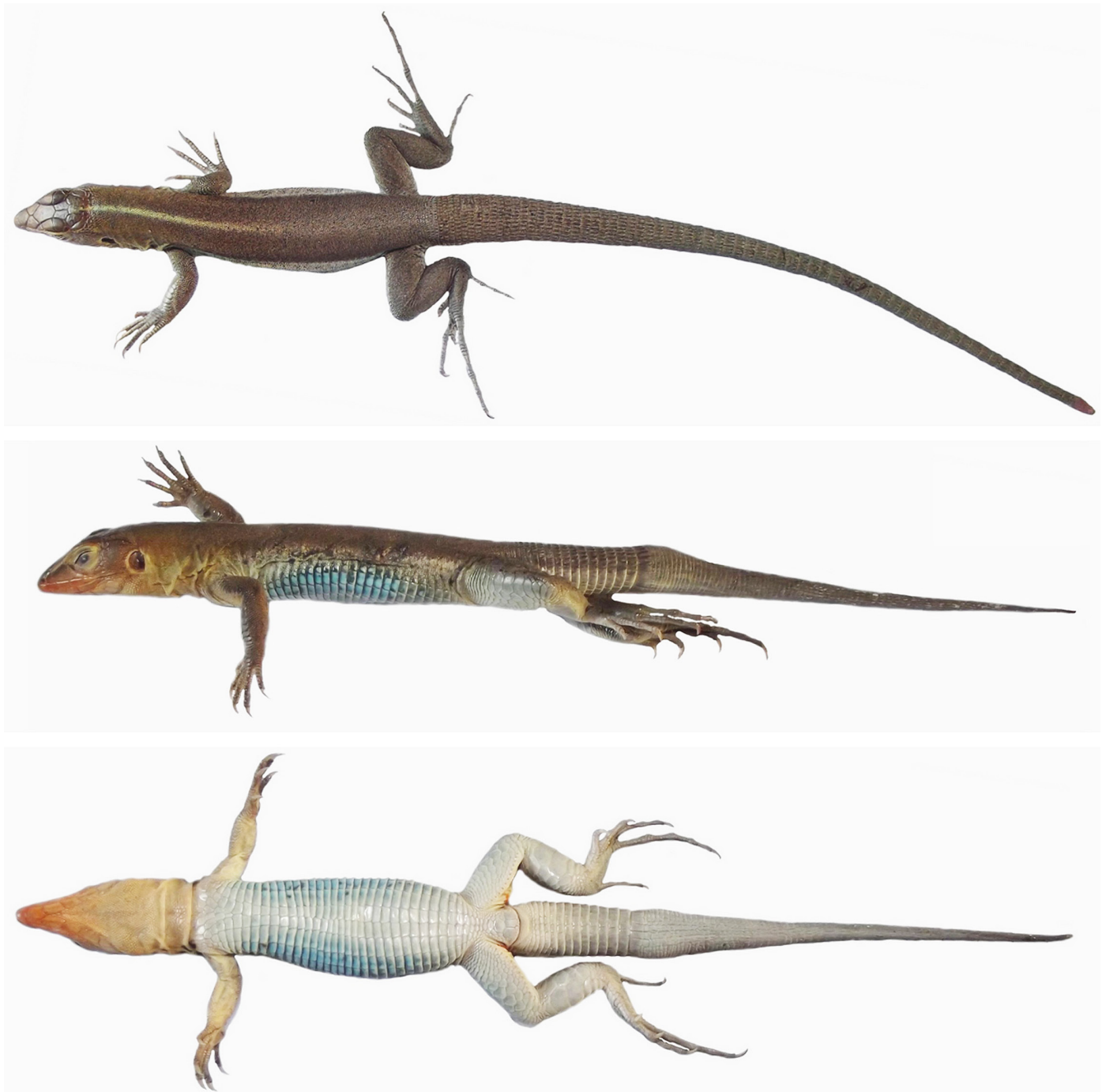


Fig. 2. Dorsal, lateral, and ventral view of an individual from the newly discovered population of Cuban Ameiva (*Ameiva auberi*) on Cayo Galindo, Sabana Archipelago. Photographs by the senior author.

cies from Cayos de las Cinco Leguas that apparently is very similar to *A. a. gemmea* (Gali and Garrido 1986). The brown head dorsally matches the dorsal ground color but the neck is slightly reddish. Rostral and mental scales are red, fading to light orange in the posterior labials. The throat is peach, contrasting strongly with the whitish chest. The body bears a thin light middorsal stripe that fades posteriorly and disappears before reaching the hindlimbs. Vaguely defined dark dorsolateral bands extend between fore- and hindlimbs. The

lateral coloration is gray or greenish, much lighter than the dorsal ground color but similar to that of the middorsal stripe. The lateral-most ventral scutes are light blue, median ventrals are whitish. Dorsal and ventral colors extend onto the extremities. The underside of the tail is pale bluish, but much lighter than the blue lateral ventrals.

Because of the differences in color, we refrain from assigning the newly discovered population from Cayo Galindo to subspecies.

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