



INTRODUCED SPECIES

Cuban Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) in Anguilla

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Cuban Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) are native to the Bahama Islands, Cuba and associated cays, Isla de la Juventud, and Little Cayman, including most satellites and cays with even rudimentary vegetation. *Anolis sagrei* is perhaps the most frequently relocated West Indian member of the genus, having become established in Jamaica since the mid-19th century (Powell et al. 2013) and with more recently introduced populations known in St. Lucia (Morton and Cox 2011), St. Maarten, 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; Fläschendräger 2010).

On 28 May 2015, we observed two adult male (Fig. 1; photographic vouchers, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, MCZ: HerpOBS:22, MCZ:HerpOBS:23) and two adult female *A. sagrei* on the grounds of the Department of Agriculture in Anguilla (18°13'01.36"N, 63°03'13.92"W).

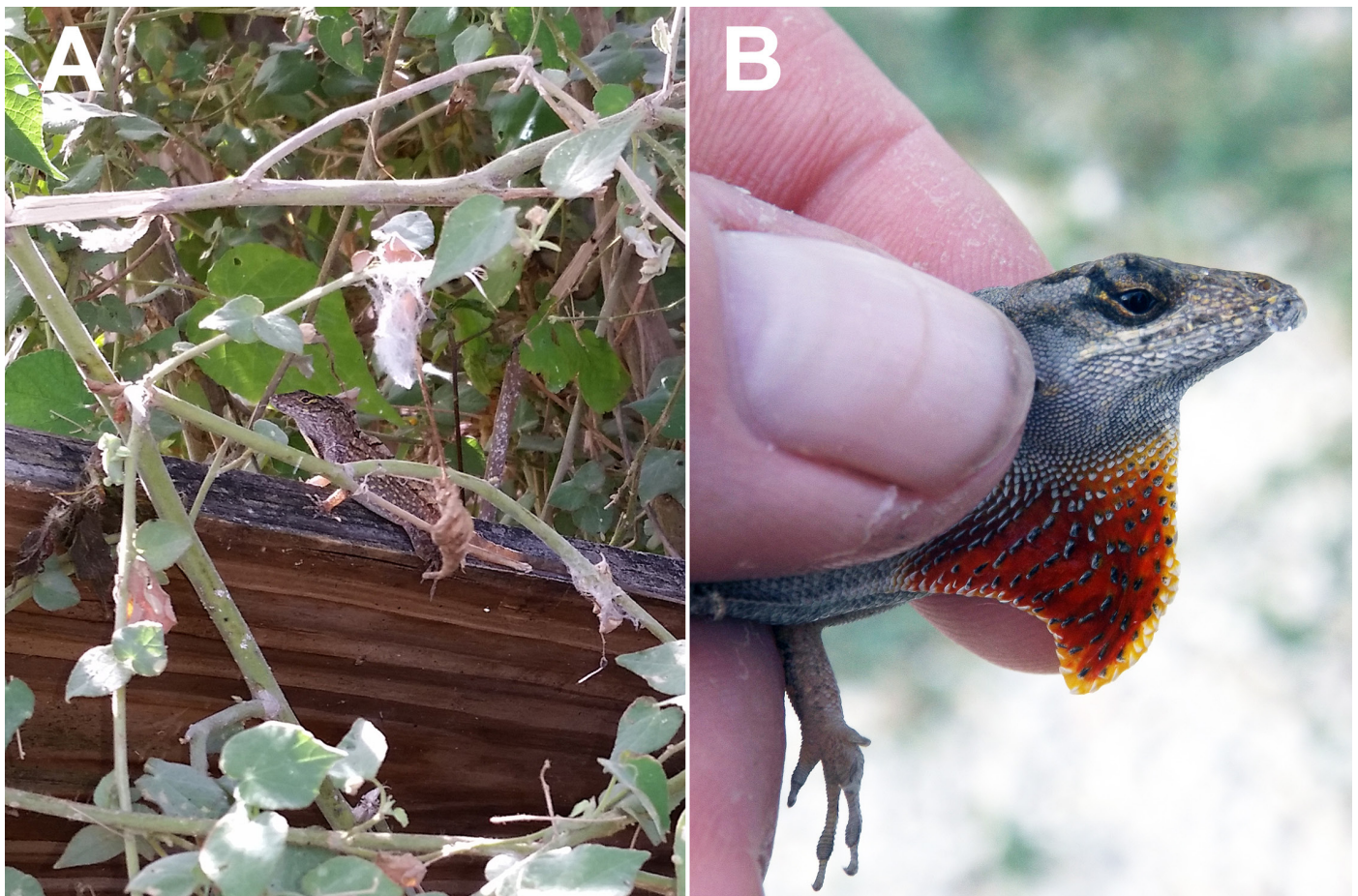


Fig. 1. Two male Cuban Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) from The Valley, Anguilla. Photographic vouchers have been deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University: (A) MCZ: HerpOBS:22, photograph by D. Carter; (B) MCZ: HerpOBS:23, photograph by R. Williams. R. Powell confirmed the identity of these lizards from these photographs.

The anoles were found perched in vegetation and on fence posts that bordered a maintained lawn and livestock holding pens. The endemic Anguilla Bank Anole (*Anolis gingivinus*) was found within one meter of one *A. sagrei*, although the only interaction observed was an aggressive encounter involving the two male Cuban Brown Anoles. An additional sighting of an adult male *A. sagrei* among fallen branches in a fruit orchard was made several days later, approximately 400 m away from the original sightings. No other anoles were observed within 5 m of that individual.

With no observations to date of juvenile *A. sagrei*, we cannot determine if the population has become established on Anguilla. Likewise, we are unable to say if the population remains largely restricted to severely altered habitats, as has been described on Grenada (Greene et al. 2002; Germano et al. 2003), St. Vincent (Henderson and Powell 2005; Treglia 2006; Treglia et al. 2008), St. Maarten (Fläschendräger 2010), and St. Lucia (Morton and Cox 2011). The Department of Agriculture operates a small plant nursery at the location of these sightings, selling cultivated plants to the general public, which could facilitate the further distribution of *A. sagrei* on Anguilla.

The origin of the population on Anguilla is unknown, although the introduction pathway is likely to be a cargo of lumber, as has been suggested for the introductions of the species to Grenada and St. Lucia (Green et al. 2002; Morton and Cox 2011), or the importation of exotic plants, as for the Cuban Treefrog on Anguilla (Townsend et al. 2000; Hodge et al. 2003). We also cannot rule out the possibility that close proximity and frequent traffic between Anguilla and St. Maarten might have also facilitated the movement of *A. sagrei* to Anguilla, although the population on St. Maarten

currently appears to be restricted to a small area near the cruise-ship terminal (Powell et al. 2015).

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