



INTRODUCED SPECIES

Barbuda Bank Tree Anole (*Anolis leachii*) on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Renata Platenberg

College of Science and Mathematics, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, 00802
(renata.platenberg@uvi.edu)

The Barbuda Bank Tree Anole (*Anolis leachii*) is native to Antigua and Barbuda (Daltry 2011). On 29 June 2015, an adult male was photographed (Fig. 1) in Hibiscus Alley, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Robert Powell confirmed the identity of the anole from the photograph. A photographic voucher has been deposited in the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM VZP 911).

Previous reports of the species on St. Thomas apparently date to Perry (2005), who mentioned in passing that the species was established there. Citing Perry (2005), Kraus (2009) noted the introduction of *A. leachii* into the U.S. Virgin Islands. Subsequently, Powell et al. (2011), Henderson and Breuil (2012, with a question mark indicating uncertainty regarding the status of the population), and Hedges (2019)

listed the species from St. Thomas. According to reports from local residents, these anoles were at one time abundant in the alleys of Charlotte Amalie, but collectors removed many of them (A. Sanchez, pers. comm. 2007) and they are rarely seen today. Reports such as that associated with the photograph cited herein occur from time to time, suggesting that a few individuals survive and are reproducing. No sightings of this species had been reported since the two category 5 hurricanes caused widespread damage to habitats across the Virgin Islands in 2017 until I saw an adult male on 2 March 2019.

Although the possibility exists that lizards were intentionally imported and subsequently released or escaped, the most likely scenario is that individuals were inadvertently transported with goods in the extensive inter-island trade (e.g., Powell et al. 2011).

Literature Cited

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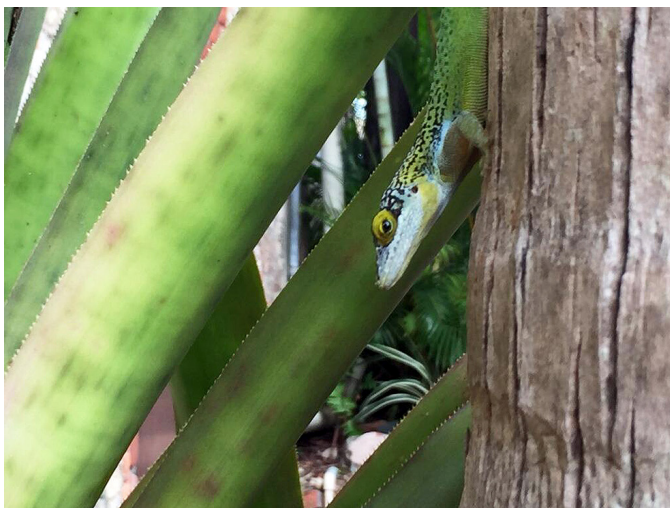


Fig. 1. An adult male Barbuda Bank Tree Anole (*Anolis leachii*) in Hibiscus Alley, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Photographed on 29 June 2015 by Marizella Moya.