



# Cuban Blue Anole (*Anolis allisoni*) Copulation Interrupted by Another Male

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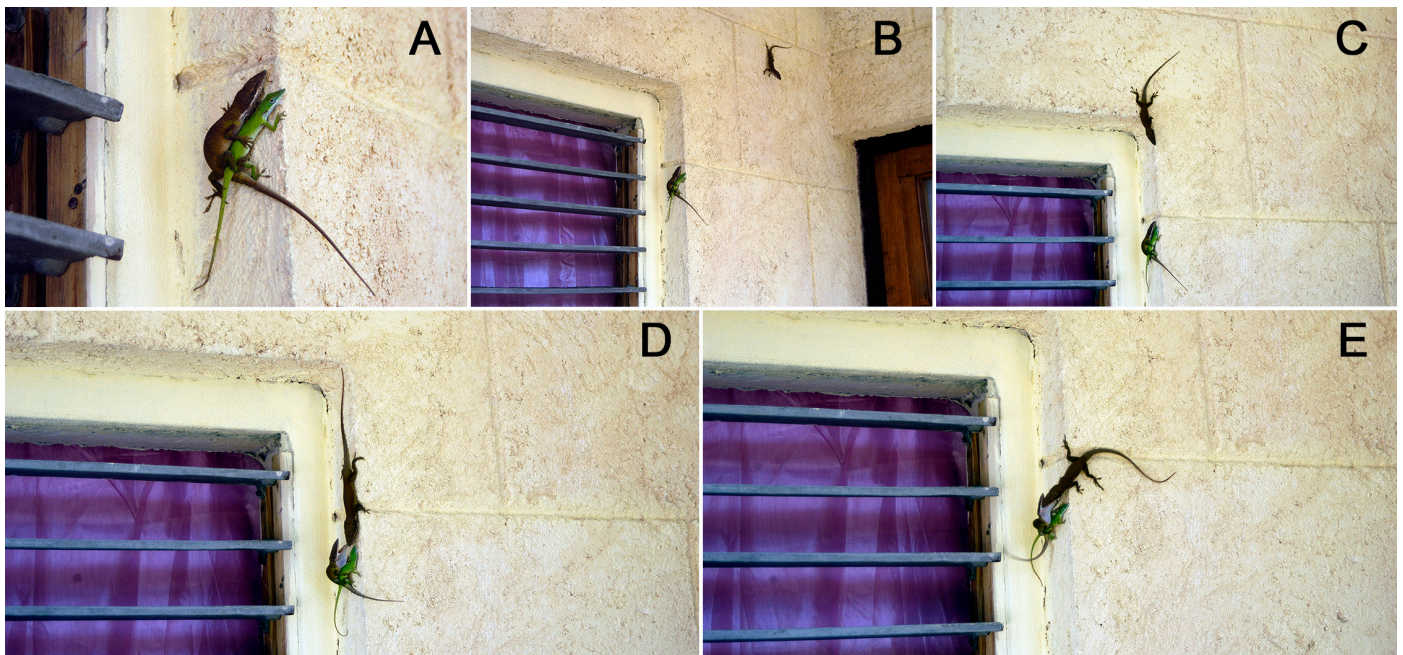
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The Cuban Blue Anole (*Anolis allisoni* Barbour 1928), is an abundant species with a wide distribution across much of Cuba — absent only in the extreme west in Pinar del Rio Province and the western part of Artemisa Province (Rodríguez-Schettino 2013). This species also occurs along the Caribbean coast on the Islas de la Bahía (Honduras), Isla Cozumel (Mexico), and the offshore islands of Belize (Henderson and Powell 2009). It also has been introduced in Florida (Krysko et al. 2015). The species often functions as a human commensal and frequently is encountered in buildings and gardens. Despite its abundance, its ecology and reproductive behavior has not been thoroughly studied. Ruibal (1967) described courtship, Silva-Lee (1982) determined that maximum reproductive activity occurred during the rainy season, and Kwet (1995) observed several females in a single male's territory.

In the coastal region near the towns of Martí, Matanzas Province, and Corralillo, Villa Clara Province, *A. allisoni* is

almost ubiquitous in residential gardens, buildings, and cultivated areas. In Ategorrieta (22°56'20"N, 80°56'58"W), 2 km W of Martí, we observed a male interrupting a pair of anoles in copulation. At about 0940 h on 6 August 2014, we observed a pair of mating *A. allisoni* with the male holding the female and remaining essentially motionless for 10–15 minutes (Fig. 1A). Another male left a perpendicular wall about 3 m away and approached the copulating pair, moving in intervals interrupted by pauses of several seconds (Fig. 1B). Once it was within 25 cm (Fig. 1C), the “intruder” attacked and bit the copulating male twice (Fig. 1D–E), causing it to release the female. All three lizards subsequently left, all moving in different directions.

Although we considered the male in copula to be the resident and the attacking male an “intruder,” we could not confirm that. However, the fact that the “intruder” came from a distance of more than 3 m lends some supports to the supposi-



**Fig. 1.** A pair of Cuban Blue Anoles (*Anolis allisoni*) in copula (A) approached by a presumptive “intruder” (B–C) that attacks and bites the “resident” male (D–E), effectively interrupting mating.

tion that it was not the resident. Both males were of comparable size, with the “resident” only slightly larger. When we described the event to local residents, they indicated that this sometimes happens, suggesting that this is not a rare occurrence.

Parmelee et al. (1992) described similar behavior in an introduced population of *Anolis porcatus* in the Dominican Republic, but the males involved were less aggressive. Implications of such aggressive intraspecific male-male behavior are unknown but a complex behavior with an apparently high energetic cost is presumably related to the defense and potential usurpation of territories and resident females.

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