



INTRODUCED SPECIES

Madagascar Giant Day Gecko (*Phelsuma grandis*) Established in Homestead, Miami-Dade County, Florida, USA

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The Madagascar Giant Day Gecko (*Phelsuma grandis*) is native to northern Madagascar, but is an established non-native species in Mauritius, Reunion (Dubos 2013), Florida (Krysko et al. 2019), and Hawaii (Kraus 2002). In Florida, *P. grandis* was first introduced via the pet trade on Little

Torch Key in 1997 (Krysko et al. 2019) and by 2002 was also established on Grassy Key, Big Pine Key, and Plantation Key (Krysko et al. 2003). Breeding populations were known only from Monroe County in the Florida Keys until 2017, when a population was reported from the Glenvar Heights area of



Fig. 1. Adult nonnative Madagascar Giant Day Gecko (*Phelsuma grandis*) in Homestead, Miami-Dade County, Florida, USA on 22 April 2019. Photograph by Thomas Fieldsend.

Miami, Miami-Dade County (Thawley and Stroud 2017). Herein, we report a second breeding population of *P. grandis* from Miami-Dade County, approximately 38 km (23.6 mi) southwest of the Glenvar Heights population.

On 22 April 2019 at 1035 h, four *Phelsuma grandis* were observed on private property near the corner of SW 348 Street and SW 212 Avenue in Homestead (25.44389°N, 80.53387°W). One adult and two subadults were observed on a single coconut palm (*Cocos nucifera*), and a second adult was observed on a nearby Philodendron (*Philodendron* sp.). Photographic vouchers were deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History (UF-Herpetology 185566–185569). Coleman M. Sheehy III confirmed the identity of the species from photographs.

This population was introduced via the pet trade during the 2000s. The property owner stated that the population survived the prolonged cold weather of 2010, during which lows of -1.1 °C (30 °F) and -0.55 °C (31 °F) were recorded on consecutive days (11–12 January; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration records). The apparent survival of this population at temperatures below freezing suggests that *P. grandis* might be able to colonize more-northerly areas

of Florida than might have been assumed *a priori*, given the species' wholly tropical native range (Raxworthy et al. 2007).

Acknowledgments

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