



# Cannibalism in Juvenile Tropical House Geckos, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (Squamata: Gekkonidae)

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Cannibalism among Tropical House Geckos (*Hemidactylus mabouia*) has been documented (Zamprogno and Teixeira 1998; Pombal and Pombal 2010; Rufino de Albuquerque et al. 2013) but only Lyakurwa (2017) described such behavior and cannibalism in juveniles has not been reported. Herein we present an observation of cannibalism in two juvenile Tropical House Geckos and the first documented report of cannibalism in the species in Cuba.

At 2000 h on 30 June 2019 on a wall near a lamp in a house in urban Santa Clara, Villa Clara, central Cuba (22.3927°S, 79.9484°W; WGS 84), we observed a juvenile *H. mabouia* (SVL approx. 4 cm) preying on a smaller conspecific (SVL approx. 2 cm). The larger gecko had a firm grasp on the head and forelimbs of its prey (Fig. 1). We were unable to verify if ingestion was successful because the predatory gecko escaped into a crack in the wall.

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**Fig. 1.** A juvenile Tropical House Gecko (*Hemidactylus mabouia*) preying on a smaller conspecific in Santa Clara, Villa Clara, Cuba. Photograph by Lillian Martínez Pérez.