

# Nectarivory in Puerto Rican Emerald Anoles (*Anolis evermanni*)

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Photographs by the author.

On 11 June and 31 July 2010, I observed three Puerto Rican Emerald Anoles (*Anolis evermanni*) licking nectar from the flowers of a Camasey Almendre (*Mecranium latifolium*) at the entrance to the Tradewinds National Recreation Trail, in El Yunque National Forest in Río Grande, Puerto Rico (elevation ca. 670 m above sea level). On both occasions, anoles were on the same plant and were observed about midmorning after a short rainfall.

Although this is the first report of nectarivory in *A. evermanni*, lapping nectar is not uncommon in West Indian anoles. *Anolis allisoni* laps nectar from Manila Palms (*Veitchia merillii*) in Cuba (Valido 2006). K.B. Sandved (in Losos and de Queiroz 1997) observed *A. grahami* of Jamaica licking a flower, presumably for its nectar. *Anolis conspersus* engaged in floral and possibly extrafloral nectarivory of the orchid *Schomburgkia thomsoniana* var. *thomsoniana* (Echternacht and Gerber 2000). *Anolis stratulus* of the Puerto Rico Bank is known to sip nectar on the shrub *Pedilanthus tithymaloides* (Perry and Lazell 1997), the stipitate glands of *Inga versa* (Mimosoideae; Rios-López 2004), and of *Anthurium* sp., orchids, and banana (*Musa*) plants (A.J. Sánchez Muñoz in Henderson and Powell 2009). *Anolis pulchellus*, also from the Puerto Rico Bank, engages in extrafloral nectarivory on *Leucaena leucocephala* (Leguminosae; Perry and Lazell 2006). The Lesser Antillean species, *A. bimaculatus*, *A. gingivinus*, *A. pogus*, and *A. sabanus* will lap nectar (Powell et al. 2005), as does Guadeloupean *A. marmoratus* (Breuil 2002b) and Barbadian *A. extremus* (Fläschendräger and Wijffels 2009). *Anolis aeneus* and *A. richardii* from the Grenada Bank engage in nectarivory and might be pollinators of *Charianthus grenadensis* and *Marcgravia umbellata*, respectively (Timmermann et al. 2008).

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