

INTRODUCED SPECIES

The Tentacled Snake, *Erpeton tentaculatum* Lacépède 1800 (Homalopsidae), in Florida

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The Tentacled Snake, *Erpeton tentaculatum* Lacépède 1800, is a strictly aquatic species of Asian origin (Winokur 1977), which typically occurs in slow or stagnant bodies of fresh and brackish water (Hahn 1973), often in very turbid lakes, streams, and rice fields (Lovic 2010). This species feeds mostly on fishes, although small amounts of vegetation have also been documented in the diet (Hahn 1973). *Erpeton tentaculatum* possesses a pair of fleshy tentacles on the rostrum, which are likely used as both sensory structures (Winokur 1977) as well as an aid in camouflage (Smith et al. 2002). This species attains an adult length of 50–90 cm total length (Lovic 2010).

On 9 December 2010 at 2023 h, a juvenile (280 mm SVL, 305 mm total length) *Erpeton tentaculatum* was found just outside the property of an animal importer's facility at 6450 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Broward County, Florida (26.04591°N, 80.21976°W, WGS84 datum). This snake was found under a piece of artificial human debris directly adjacent to a source of water. The individual appeared dead, likely because of the cold (13 °C) evening, but revived after being warmed. The snake was deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (UF 163086). Species identification was confirmed by Gregory Watkins-Colwell, Yale Peabody Museum.

The introduction pathway for *Erpeton tentaculatum* in Florida is the pet trade. The adjacent areas surrounding the active facility are well known for unusual non-indigenous species and frequently searched for their illegally released or escaped animals. This snake likely had escaped from an enclosure at the importer's facility or was intentionally released, and represents the first known voucher for this family and species in Florida. Further searches by the authors and colleagues have failed to turn up any more individuals of *Erpeton tentaculatum*, and a breeding population is not suspected, nor likely due to insufficient habitat in the general area.

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We truly thank Javier Borrero (Aycok Veterinary Clinic) for permission to collect animals on private property directly adjacent to the animal importer's facility; Gregory Watkins-Colwell (Peabody Museum of Natural History) for



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Tentacled Snake (*Erpeton tentaculatum*) (UF 163086), collected on 9 December 2010 in Hollywood, Broward County, Florida.

species confirmation; and Gad Perry, Robert Powell, Tom Chesnes, and an anonymous reviewer for providing helpful comments on this research note.

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Cuban Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) in Saint Lucia

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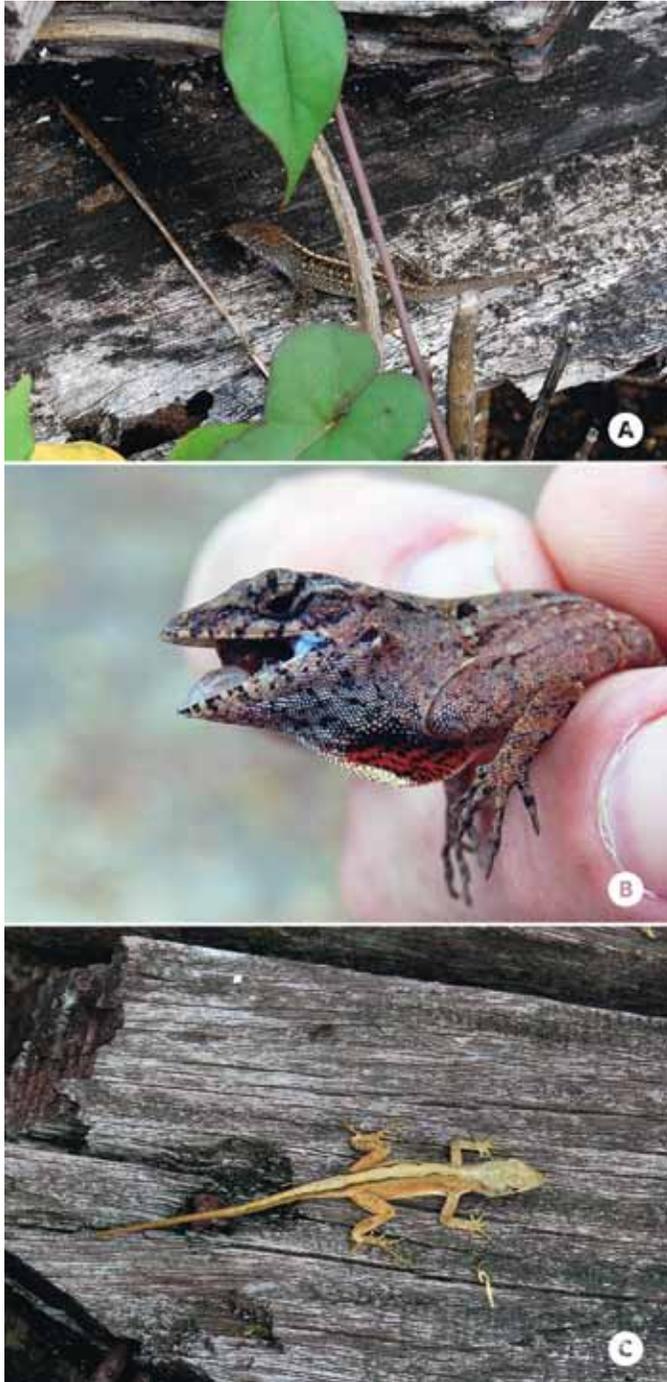
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Photographs by Nathan A. Wood (Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust)

Cuban Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) are native to the Bahama Islands (Cay Sal, Conception, Crooked, Acklins, Grand Bahama, Little Bahama, Rum Cay, and San Salvador island banks), Cuba and associated

cays, Isla de La Juventud, and Little Cayman, including most satellites and cays with even rudimentary vegetation. The species also has become established in Jamaica, either naturally or through human mediation. More

recently introduced populations are known in Grand Cayman, Swan Island, Sint Maarten, Grenada, Saint Vincent, the Grenadines (Canouan), Barbados, the Atlantic Coast of México as far as Belize, the Islas de la Bahía (off Honduras), Aruba, Hawaii (Oahu and Coconut Island, Kauai), Taiwan, the southeastern United States, and California (Orange County; Henderson and Powell 2009 and references therein, Fläschendräger 2010).



Male (A and B) and female (C) Cuban Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) from La Toc on St. Lucia. Photographic vouchers have been deposited in the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM P-753). The identity of these lizards and the individual photographed in 2003 was confirmed from photographs by Robert W. Henderson (MPM).

At least some introduced populations originated in the southeastern United States.

An individual of this species was first photographed and recorded by one of us (CAC) on 8 June 2003 at his residential property at La Toc, just west of Saint Lucia's capitol, Castries (photographic voucher Milwaukee Public Museum MPM P-752). The single male was found in a stockpile of cable television wire on old timbers in contact with the ground. The species is not known to have been seen again until reports were received on 5 December 2010 from a second residential property at La Toc, approximately 300 m northwest of the first sighting at 14°0'35"N, 61°0'13.5"W. This site is approximately 1.3 km southwest of Saint Lucia's main sea cargo port, Port Castries. Ten *A. sagrei* were captured and photographed at this second site; three of these photographs have been deposited as museum vouchers (see figure). At this second site, individuals were found on and near construction materials (primarily lumber) and on fence posts around a small overgrown garden plot. Endemic *A. luciae* and introduced *A. wattsi* were observed within a few meters of *A. sagrei*, and introduced *A. extremus* was observed within 100 m. As *A. luciae* can attain a larger adult size than *A. sagrei* (Henderson and Powell 2009), negative effects on Saint Lucia's native anole might be minimal, as suggested for effects of *A. sagrei* on endemic *A. aeneus* and *A. richardii* on Grenada (Greene et al. 2002).

Whether the newly established population remains largely restricted to severely altered habitats, as on Grenada (Greene et al. 2002, Germano et al. 2003), Saint Vincent (Henderson and Powell 2005, Treglia 2006, Treglia et al. 2008, Eales and Thorpe 2010), and Sint Maarten (Fläschendräger 2010) remains to be determined. The origin of the population on Saint Lucia is unknown, although the location for our sightings suggests that the introduction pathway was likely cargo, probably lumber, from the southern United States, again as suggested for the introduction of this species to Grenada (Greene et al. 2002).

Acknowledgements

The location at which vouchers were taken was first brought to our attention by Gerard and Niall Bergasse, who kindly gave us access to the site and helped us catch the lizards, as did Barbara Schaeffer, Benji Barca, Mike Ball, Nate Woods, Nick Condie, and Twyla Holland. MNM is funded by the Balcombe Trust and works in Saint Lucia alongside Durrell's program counterparts in the Saint Lucia Forestry Department (Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry & Fisheries).

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