



INTRODUCED SPECIES

Cuban Knight Anole (*Anolis equestris*) on Great Abaco, Bahamas

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On 12 February 2017, Wayne Archer, a resident of Abaco, found an unfamiliar lizard at the Port Department Building in Marsh Harbour, Abaco (26.543659, -77.063556; Fig. 1). He sent a photograph, from which the first author identified it as a Cuban Knight Anole (*Anolis equestris*). The anole was caught and euthanized. A photographic voucher has been deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH 179681). Dr. Kenneth L. Krysko confirmed the identity of the lizard from the photograph.

The Cuban Knight Anole is the largest species in the genus *Anolis* and is native to Cuba. The species was introduced in Florida in 1952 and is well-established there (Brach 1976). Since then, the species was introduced into The Bahamas in the 1990s, possibly from plants imported from Florida (Knapp et al. 2011; Buckner et al. 2012). Until now, its known range in the archipelago was restricted to the islands of Grand Bahama and New Providence. However, conversations with residents of Abaco indicate that this individual represents the third sighting of the species on the island. The first was two years ago and the second last year.

Literature Cited

- Brach, V. 1976. Habits and food of *Anolis equestris* in Florida. *Copeia* 1976: 187–189.
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- Knapp, C.R., J.B. Iverson, S.D. Buckner, and S.V. Cant. 2011. Conservation of amphibians and reptiles in the Bahamas, pp 53–88. In: A. Hailey, B.S. Wilson, and J.A. Horrocks (eds.), *Conservation of Caribbean Island Herpetofaunas. Volume 2: Regional Accounts of the West Indies*. Brill, Leiden, The Netherlands.



Fig. 1. Cuban knight Anole (*Anolis equestris*) found at the Port Department Building in Marsh Harbour, Abaco, The Bahamas. Photograph by David Knowles.