

Nature Notes

New Localities for the Introduced *Anolis wattsi* (Squamata: Dactyloidae) on Trinidad, West Indies

The island of Trinidad in the Caribbean currently has one native *Anolis* lizard: *Anolis planiceps* Troschel 1848, a second suspected native species: *Anolis tigrinus* Peters 1863, and has had at least five introduced ones: *Anolis aeneus*, *Anolis extremus*, *Anolis sagrei*, *Anolis trinitatis* and *Anolis wattsi* (Murphy *et al.* 2017). The latter, *Anolis wattsi* (Boulenger 1894, Watt's Anole) (Fig. 1) is native to Antigua and is also distributed across Anguilla, St. Eustatius, St. Lucia, St. Martin, and Trinidad (Schwartz and Henderson 1991; White and Hailey 2006). Watt's Anoles spend much of their time on the ground and on the lower end of trees, and are typically active in the early morning when the temperature is cooler. They grow to about 58 mm snout to vent length. On Trinidad, individuals were first discovered in 1992 by G. White at the Caroni Research Station at Waterloo (Boos 1996). Field surveys conducted in 2000 and 2004 (White and Hailey 2006) showed the species to be spreading over an area of about 75 square km in west-central Trinidad. This report documents new localities for *A. wattsi* in southwest, northwest, and north-central Trinidad subsequent to the 2000 and 2004 surveys.

Watt's Anoles were observed at Reform Village, roughly 5 km east of San Fernando in 2009 (A. Hailey, personal communication). In 2014, A. Fifi observed a male and female individual near the University of Trinidad and Tobago building in Chaguaramas, and in 2015, individuals were observed at the seaward side of West Shore Hospital and the southern side of Wrightson Road at the junction of French Street and Wrightson Road, Port of Spain (H. Boos, personal communication). Also, in 2015, AF saw two adult pairs at the O'Meara Industrial Estate, in Arima. An adult was collected and catalogued at the University of the West Indies Zoology Museum St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago (UWIZM.2016.4). Finally in 2017, R.J. Auguste saw a single individual at the University of the West Indies St. Augustine campus near cocoa trees in the leaf litter.

The new localities for *A. wattsi* are within urban developed areas, as previously documented by White and Hailey (2006). It is likely that the movement of these lizards is facilitated by human transportation. Competition with the native species (*A. planiceps*) is currently unlikely, as that species is restricted to forested areas in Trinidad (Murphy 1997; Murphy *et al.* 2017). However, it will be important to keep track of the distribution of *A. wattsi* in Trinidad, as White and Hailey (2006) suggested that it

would be interesting to track the outward spread from its first known established location on the island.

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Adam Fifi

adam.fifi@yahoo.com

Renoir J. Auguste

renguste@gmail.com



Fig. 1. Adult Male *Anolis wattsi*. Photo by A. Fifi.