

Anolis extremus

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia		Polychrotidae

Common name zanndoli (English, Saint Lucia), Barbados anole (English)

Synonym *Anolis roquet* , var. *extremus* Garman, 1887
Anolis roquet extremus , Grant, 1959
Anolis roquet extremus , Schmidt, 1970
Anolis extremus , Schwartz & Henderson, 1991

Similar species

Summary Native to Barbados, *Anolis extremus* is a fairly large anole capable of competing with and / or displacing both native and other introduced anole lizards. This is best illustrated on St. Lucia where the native *A. luciae* has been displaced from urban and suburban locations. However, the limited distribution of *A. extremus* on St. Lucia has prevented it from becoming a serious threat.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

Species Description

Anolis extremus is a fairly large, arboreal anole, with males growing up to 85 mm from snout to tail-base (Daltry, 2009). Colour is mossy green with dark brown or black markings and sometimes pale spots, mainly in the front half of the body. The front half may also have a lavender or grey hue with the head being blue grey or lavender (Daltry, 2009). Males have a dark ring around the eye and a yellow or orange dewlap with greenish scales (Daltry, 2009). Females are smaller, growing up to 60 mm from snout to tail-base. Colours are similar but duller and there may be a striped or obsolete pattern down the spine (Daltry, 2009).

Notes

Anolis extremus is one of three introduced anole species present on Bermuda, along with Graham's anole (see [Norops grahami](#)) and the Barbuda Bank tree anole (see [A. leachii](#)) (Wingate, 1965). The effects of these lizards, particularly *N. grahami* led to the introduction of the great kiskadee (see [Pitangus sulphuratus](#)) as a biocontrol agent in 1957. However, this biocontrol attempt was a failure, with *P. sulphuratus* playing a significant role in the population declines of native insect, bird and reptile species on Bermuda (Cheesman & Clubbe, 2007; Davenport *et al.*, 2008).

On Saint Lucia, *A. extremus* is one of two introduced anole lizards including Watt's anole (see [A. wattsi](#)) (Gorman, 1976) and on Trinidad, *A. extremus* was one of four introduced anole lizards including Watt's anole (*A. wattsi*), the bronze anole, (see [A. aeneus](#)) and Saint Vincent's tree anole (see [A. trinitatis](#)) (Hailey *et al.*, 2009); the presence of *A. extremus* however has not been reported on Trinidad since 1982 (Hailey *et al.*, 2009).

Habitat Description

On St. Lucia, *Anolis extremus* is found mainly in gardens, urban areas and adjoining patches of forest; it has not been recorded in deep forest (Daltry, 2009). Losos (1996) described *A. extremus* as an arboreal lizard, most likely found at eye-level on tree trunks and less frequently on tree branches.

Reproduction

The female *Anolis extremus* lays and buries one or two eggs in a shallow nest in the soil (Daltry, 2009).

Nutrition

The diet of *Anolis extremus* is very varied, including ants, spiders, crickets, cockroaches, grasshoppers, insect larvae, and occasionally fruit (Daltry, 2009). They are "sit and wait" predators that perch on tree trunks, branches and bushes, scanning the ground and undergrowth for prey (Daltry, 2009).

General Impacts

Anolis extremus affects the distribution of similar species, including the native *A. luciae* on St. Lucia (Gorman, 1976), and the introduced *Norops grahami* on Bermuda (Losos, 1996). On St. Lucia, *A. extremus* has led to the displacement of *A. luciae* from urban and suburban areas; however its distribution at present is too limited to pose a serious threat (Daltry, 2009). On Bermuda, *A. extremus* and *N. grahami* are ecologically similar enough to slow each others range expansion, but not similar enough to competitively exclude each other (Losos, 1996).

Management Info

Physical control: While eradications may be unfeasible for widespread *Anolis extremus* invasions on islands such as St. Lucia, Daltry (2009) suggests that hand removal may be successful for local control.

Biological control: On St. Lucia, *A. extremus* is preyed upon by the introduced mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*), however this has not been enough to significantly impact abundance (Daltry, 2009).

Cultural control: Daltry (2009) makes several management recommendations for St. Lucia to prevent the spread of *A. extremus* to other offshore islands. These include: listing *A. extremus* as Unprotected under the Wildlife Protection Act; monitoring the spread of this species and be vigilant for signs that it is invading mature, natural forests; preventing *A. extremus* from invading the offshore islands, especially the Maria islands, by screening all boats and baggage; and supporting reptile conservation in other tropical countries by prohibiting, screening and removing anole lizards from exported cargo (Daltry, 2009).

Pathway

Most likely capable of dispersal as a stowaway on cargo ships (Wingate, 1965).

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

Review:

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ALIEN RANGE

[1] BERMUDA

[1] TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

[1] VENEZUELA

[1] SAINT LUCIA

[1] UNITED STATES

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17 references found for *Anolis extremus*

Managment information

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[IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group \(ISSG\), 2010. A Compilation of Information Sources for Conservation Managers.](#)

Summary: This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

General information

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