

ANOLIS ALLISONI (Allison's Anole/Camaleón Azul). **NECTAR FEEDING.** As recently as the ecological review in Schwartz and Henderson (1991. *Amphibians and Reptiles of the West Indies: Descriptions, Distribution, and Natural History*. University of Florida Press, Gainesville. 720 pp.), nectarivory among anole lizards remained undocumented. Yet, over the last decade, more attention has been paid to lizard behavior when they are near flowers, resulting in a scattered evidence for polychrotid lizards feeding on nectar and/or pollen (e.g., *Anolis carolinensis*: Bartlett 1995. *Reptiles* 2:48-65; Himes 1998. *Herpetol. Rev.* 29:236; Campbell and Bleazy 2000. *Herpetol. Rev.* 31:239; *Anolis conspersus*: Echternacht et al. 2000. *Herpetol. Rev.* 31:173; *Anolis grahami*: Losos and Queiroz 1997. *Natural History* 108:34-39; *Anolis porcatius*: Townsend 2003. *Herpetol. Rev.* 34:141-142; and *Anolis stratulus*: Perry and Lazell 1997. *Herpetol. Rev.* 28:150-151). Cuban anoles may seem an exception to this pattern, but the many and extensive dietary studies on Cuban anoles being based almost entirely on stomach contents analyses (e.g., review in Rodríguez-Schettino 1999. *The Iguanid Lizards of Cuba*. University of Florida Press, Gainesville. 384 pp.) rather than behavioral observations has provided little opportunity to record nectarivory. However, two anoles native to Cuba have been identified as nectar feeders in Florida: *Anolis porcatius* (an introduced species) on the ornamental areca palm (*Chrysalipedocarpus lutescens*) Townsend (*op. cit.*), and the native *A. carolinensis* on two native palms: *Serenoa repens* and *Sabal palmetto* (Campbell and Bleazy, *op. cit.*). For this reason, I document nectarivory in *A. allisoni* in Cuba.

Between 0830 and 0930 h on 17 June 2003, I observed several females and juveniles of *A. allisoni* lapping nectar from the flowers of the ornamental palm 'Adonidia' (*Veitchia merrillii*, *Arecaceae*) in a garden in the Balcón de la Sierra (Bartolomé Masó). This palm is native to the Philippines, but is common in Cuba (Leiva 1999. *Las Palmas en Cuba*. Ed.

Científica-Técnica, La Habana, Cuba, 84 pp.). In this garden, *A. allisoni* is relatively abundant, and the species is often seen (often 3-4 in the same trunk) climbing these palms at heights < 2 m. On 10 occasions, females and juveniles were observed visiting flowers for nectar. Although several males were present in different palms at similar heights as females and juveniles, I never observed them visiting flowers during this period. My observation is similar to behavioral data obtained in captivity, where juveniles of different Cuban anoles have been observed feeding on nectar directly from flowers (L.V. Moreno, pers. comm.). In this garden, flowers of *V. merrillii* were also frequently visited by honeybees, but I did not observe aggressive interactions between lizards and bees, although on one occasion, a juvenile *A. allisoni* left when a honeybee arrived at the same flower. Remaining lizard-plant interactions occurred without *Apis mellifera* presence.

An insectivorous diet has been reported for *A. allisoni*, both in island (Cuba) (Rodríguez-Schettino, *op. cit*) and mainland (Mexico) situations (Lee 1996. The Amphibians and Reptiles of the Yucatan Peninsula. Comstock Publ. Assoc., Ithaca, New York. 500 pp.). This observation documents a new example of lizard nectar feeding in island habitats, where this phenomenon has been observed relatively more frequently than in mainland situations (Olesen and Valido 2003. Trends Ecol. Evol. 18:177-181), and where lizards have the potential to act as pollinators. Lizard pollination of plants has been experimentally demonstrated in but a few cases (e.g., the lacertid *Podarcis lilfordi* from the Balearic Islands [Traveset and Sáez 1997. Oecologia 111:241-248; Pérez-Mellado and Casas 1997. Copeia 1997:593-595], and the scincid *Niveocincus microlepidotus* in Tasmania [Olsson et al. 2000. Biol. J. Linnean Soc 71:191-202]), but together with scattered indirect evidence from New Zealand (Whittaker 1987. New Zealand J. Bot 25:315-328; Eifler 1995. Oecologia 101:228-233), Mauritius (Nyhagen et al. 2001. J. Trop.

Ecol 17:755-761), the Canary Islands (Fong and Ferrer 1995. Herpetol. Rev. 26:35-36; Valido et al. 2002 Acta Oecologica 23:413-419), New Caledonia (Bauer and Sadlier 2000. The Herpetofauna of New Caledonia. SSAR Publications, Ithaca, New York 310 pp.), and the Seychelles (Cheke 1984. *In*: Stoddart (ed), Biogeography and ecology of the Seychelles Islands, Pp. 331-360. W. Junk Publishers, The Hague), these observations imply that greater attention should be paid to the possibility of lizard pollination (Proctor et al. 1996. *The Natural History of Pollination*. Harper Collins, London. 479 pp).

Here, I reported nectarivory by a Cuban anole on an exotic palm. However, if we consider the abundance of palms in Cuba (about 80 native species; Leiva, *op. cit.*) along with the ability of *Anolis* to exploit nectar from palm flowers, and hummingbird feeders (*A. carolinensis*: Limer 1996. Herpetol. Rev. 27:78), or bottles of honey left open in houses in Cuba (*A. porcatius*: A. Fong., pers. comm.), interactions between anoles and native palms that involve nectarivory and perhaps pollination should be expected.

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