



Predation by a Cuban Treefrog, *Osteopilus septentrionalis* (Anura: Hylidae), on a Cuban Green Anole, *Anolis porcatus* (Squamata: Dactyloidae)

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The Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) is widely distributed in Cuba, the Bahamas, and the Cayman Islands and has been introduced onto several Antillean islands and in the USA (e.g., Henderson and Powell 2009; Glorioso et al. 2018; Palis et al. 2021). These voracious frogs feed primarily on invertebrates (Owen 2005; Henderson and Powell 2009; García-Padrón 2020), but anurophagy (including cannibalism), saurophagy, and predation on small snakes, bats, and birds have been recorded (Peters 1974; Meshaka 1996, 2001; Kaiser et al. 2016; Mancina et al. 2016; Glorioso et al. 2012; Borroto-Páez and Reyes Perez 2019; Portal Rios et al. 2020).

The only anole recorded as prey of *O. septentrionalis* in Cuba is the Cuban Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei*) (Meshaka 1996), but predation on the North American Green Anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) has been observed in Florida, USA (Hoffmann and Johnson 2008). Herein we document predation on a Cuban Green Anole (*Anolis porcatus*) in Cuba.

At 1230 h on 6 November 2021, in the backyard of an urban residence in El Trigal, Boyeros Municipality, La Habana Province, Cuba (23°02'21"N, 82°22'19"W; elev. 90 m asl), an adult female *A. porcatus* was perched on a Staghorn Fern (*Platicereum* sp.) 1.15 m above the ground feeding on



Fig. 1. A Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) capturing a Cuban Green Anole (*Anolis porcatus*) in an urban area in La Habana Province, Cuba. After the initial attack at 1230 h, these images were taken at 1240 h. Photographs by the senior author.

fruit flies (Diptera: Drosophilidae) near a bag of garbage. While the lizard was preoccupied, a Cuban Treefrog jumped and seized it by the posterior portion of its body (Fig. 1). The lizard fought ineffectively to escape (Fig. 2) but, after approximately 40 min, was completely ingested.

As Cuban Treefrogs are primarily nocturnal (Henderson and Powell 2009), this diurnal event would appear to be highly unusual. One possible explanation is that the frog was hungry as a consequence of low prey availability in that loca-

tion and during that season and, while in a diurnal refuge, detected the anole and recognized it as possible prey.

This represents the second species of *Anolis* in the diet of *O. septentrionalis* in Cuba, the third species of lizard, and the eighth vertebrate (Table 1).

Literature Cited

Borroto-Páez, R. and D. Reyes Perez. 2019. Unusual behavior during cannibalism of Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) in a commensal habitat in



Fig. 2. A Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) ingesting a Cuban Green Anole (*Anolis porcatius*) in an urban area in La Habana Province, Cuba. After the initial attack at 1230 h, these images were taken at 1243 h and 1252 h. Photographs by the senior author.

Table 1. List of known Cuban vertebrate prey of the Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) (field data only).

Prey	References	Comments
ANURA: Hylidae		
Cuban Treefrog (<i>Osteopilus septentrionalis</i>)	Peters 1974; Meshaka 1996; Kaiser et al. 2016; Borroto-Páez and Reyes Perez 2019	At least six instances in both urban and natural habitats
ANURA: Eleutherodactylidae		
Cuban Flat-headed Frog (<i>Eleutherodactylus planirostris</i>)	Meshaka 1996	
SQUAMATA: Dactyloidae		
Cuban Green Anole (<i>Anolis porcatius</i>)	This paper	In an urban environment
Cuban Brown Anole (<i>Anolis sagrei</i>)	Meshaka 1996	
SQUAMATA: Gekkonidae		
Tropical House Gecko (<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>)	Borroto-Páez and Reyes Perez 2020	In an urban environment
AVES: Thraupidae		
Yellow-faced Grassquit (<i>Tiaris olivaceus</i>)	Portal Ríos et al. 2020	Caged bird
CHIROPTERA: Vespertilionidae		
Big Brown Bat (<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>)	Silva Taboada 1979	Indoors in a suburban environment
CHIROPTERA: Molossidae		
Velvety Free-tailed Bat (<i>Molossus molossus</i>)	Mancina et al. 2016	In an urban environment

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