

INTRODUCED SPECIES

Oustalet's Chameleon, *Furcifer oustaleti* (Mocquard 1894) (Chamaeleonidae), a Non-indigenous Species Newly Established in Florida

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Oustalet's Chameleon, *Furcifer oustaleti* (Mocquard 1894), is indigenous to Madagascar (Henkel and Schmidt 2000). This species is typically found in open savannas and forest habitats, and has been verified growing up to 700 mm total length (Henkel and Schmidt 2000).

On 20 December 2000, KLK and Anthony T. Reppas visited an animal importer's facility at 36490 SW 192nd Avenue, Florida City, Miami-Dade County, Florida. While in business, it specialized in importing amphibians and reptiles from Madagascar, and we were told at that time



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Adult male Oustalet's Chameleon (*Furcifer oustaleti*) (UF 163067), collected on 20 November 2010 in Florida City, Miami-Dade County, Florida.

that chameleons had been released in the avocado orchard in the back of the property. In the summer of 2009, JAW acquired a dead adult *Furcifer oustaleti*, which was collected in the vicinity of the former animal importer's facility, and which, upon dissection, was discovered to be a gravid female. On 20, 22, 29, and 30 November and 1 December 2010, we conducted night-time surveys of adjacent areas and collected 19 *F. oustaleti* between 1930–0049 h. Our specimens (UF 163066–163084) were found sleeping between 1.7–4.5 m above the ground on Lancewood (*Nectandra coriacea*), White Leadtree (*Leucaena leucocephala*), and Avocado (*Persea americana*) trees, and represented juveniles to adults (83–241 mm SVL, 171–546 mm total length) of both sexes. Digital images of our live specimens were sent to William B. Love (pers. comm.), who confirmed our identification. After speaking with current property owners, we must advise that much of the area, including the former animal importer's facility is posted as no trespassing, thus permission to collect on these or other private properties must be obtained beforehand.

The introduction pathway for *Furcifer oustaleti* in Florida is the pet trade. The presence of juveniles to adults of both sexes, apparently persisting for at least one decade, including surviving through the atypical prolonged cold winter temperatures in January 2010 that killed many individuals of both indigenous and non-indigenous species (Mazzotti 2010), suggests that *F. oustaleti* is firmly, albeit locally, established in southern Florida. This is the second verified established chameleon in Florida (Krysko et al. 2004).

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GUY N. KIECKHEFER III

Adult Oustalet's Chameleon (*Furcifer oustaleti*) (UF 163083), *in situ* collected on 1 December 2010 in Florida City, Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Literature Cited

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Juvenile Oustalet's Chameleon (*Furcifer oustaleti*) (UF 163082), collected on 1 December 2010 in Florida City, Miami-Dade County, Florida.