

PHOTO BY NICOLE JENNINGS



FIG. 1. Adult *Crocodylus acutus* with an *Arius felis* pectoral spine in its tongue at Everglades National Park, Florida, USA.

PHOTO BY SIDNEY GODFREY



FIG. 2. A reference photo of an *Arius felis* pectoral spine taken from the tongue of a *Crocodylus acutus* at Everglades National Park, Florida, USA.

with a pair of tongs for further examination (Fig. 2). The pectoral spine was photographed and submitted to the Florida Museum of Natural History to attain species identification. The pectoral spine's presence in the crocodile's tongue is evidence that *A. felis* could be an unreported prey item for *C. acutus* in south Florida. However, we could not confirm the presence of *A. felis* in either the stomach or gastrointestinal tract since we could not extract stomach contents or feces.

We thank Nicole Cannarozzi and Rob Robbins at the Florida Museum of Natural History for their assistance with species identification of the catfish pectoral spine.

SIDNEY T. GODFREY (e-mail: sgodfrey1@ufl.edu), **NICOLE D. JENNINGS** (e-mail: nicole.jennings@ufl.edu), and **FRANK J. MAZZOTTI**, University of Florida IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research & Education Center, Davie, Florida, USA 33314 (e-mail: fjma@ufl.edu).

SQUAMATA — LIZARDS

ANOLIS CAROLINENSIS (Green Anole). HABITAT USE. The native range of *Anolis carolinensis* includes the most northern latitudes of any species in the diverse and primarily tropical lizard genus *Anolis* (Williams 1969. Quart. Rev. Biol. 44:345–389). Throughout most of the year, *A. carolinensis* is considered a habitat generalist that uses grasses, stems, leaves, branches, tree trunks, and signs/fence posts as perching sites (Irschick et al. 2005. Biol. J. Linn. Soc. 85:223–234). However, unlike many of its tropical congeners, *A. carolinensis* faces high seasonal temperature variation and must behaviorally thermoregulate in order to survive the colder months. During the winter, these lizards are generally active but may seek refuge in rock crevices when temperatures drop at night or when it is particularly cold or overcast during the day (Bishop and Echtenacht 2004. Herpetologica 60:168–177). In this report, we describe late-fall novel refuge use by *A. carolinensis*.

On 22 November 2021, at 1124 h, we observed an adult female *A. carolinensis* inhabiting an inactive hornet nest in Oconee



FIG. 1. Adult female *Anolis carolinensis* positioned (as found) within the aperture of an inactive hornet nest in Oconee County, South Carolina, USA.



FIG. 2. Adult female *Anolis carolinensis* positioned on the outside of the inactive hornet nest in Oconee County, South Carolina, USA. This was how we encountered the lizard when we returned ca. 20 min after our initial observation.

County, South Carolina, USA (34.59868°N, 82.92664°W; WGS 84; 230 m elev.). The nest was hanging ca. 2.5 m above the ground in a large cedar tree and was partially obscured by branches and foliage. The lizard was positioned in the nest aperture with only her head sticking out (Fig. 1), which is consistent with *A. carolinensis* basking behavior just before emergence from rock crevices in winter (Bishop and Echternacht 2004. *Herpetologica* 60:168–177). She remained in the nest's opening while we took several photos from a distance of 5 m for ca. five min. We then left and returned at 1151 h to take more photos. Upon our return, the lizard was clinging to the outside of the nest (Fig. 2) and had climbed ca. 30 cm up from the aperture.

Given the shape, size, and placement of the nest, we determined that it was most likely constructed by the regionally common *Dolichovespula maculata* (Bald-faced Hornet). We first observed this nest on 15 August 2021 but did not approach due to the abundance of hornets in and around it. However, during our visit on 22 November 2021, no hornets were seen anywhere nearby. In addition, we tapped on the nest on 23 November 2021 and did not hear any buzzing or any other response, suggesting that the nest was empty. The anole was no longer present in the nest at this time either.

To our knowledge, this is the first published report of *A. carolinensis* or any anole species occupying an abandoned hymenopteran nest. While interesting, the purpose for doing so remains unclear. Female *A. carolinensis* have been documented to use active nests of trap jaw ants as oviposition sites (Kwapich 2021. *Southeast. Nat.* 20:N119–N124), but it seems highly unlikely that the female we observed was using the hornet nest for egg-laying simply due to the fact that late November is well outside the reproductive season for this species (Licht 1973. *Copeia* 1973:465–472). Alternatively, we suspect that *A. carolinensis* may use hornet nests as well-insulated thermal refugia during the colder months of the year. Indeed, the very same type of nest in which we observed an anole is known to regularly provide roosting sites for overwintering Carolina Wrens in the southeastern United States (Elliott and Elliott 2017. *The Chat* 81:97–100).

JOHN DAVID CURLIS (e-mail: curlisjd@umich.edu) and **MOLLY A. HIRST**, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, 3600 Varsity Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108, USA; **ANNE CURLIS** and **DAVID CURLIS**, 9322 Lear Court, Huntersville, North Carolina 28078, USA.

ANOLIS SCHIEDII (Schiede's Anole). **MAXIMUM ELEVATION.** *Anolis schiedii* is endemic to Mexico and is restricted to the central part of the state of Veracruz, occurring from 1340 to 2012 m in cloud forest, oak forest, and pine-oak forest (Nieto-Montes de Oca 1994. *Herpetologica* 50:325–335; Vásquez-Cruz and Peralta-Hernández 2020. *Herpetol. Rev.* 51:773–774.). Here, we report a new maximum elevation record for *A. schiedii*.

On 12 September 2021, ca. 1800 h, we found an adult female *A. schiedii* active among the litter in an ecotone between an oak forest and cloud forest at an elevation of 2325 m in the Municipality of Huiloapan de Cuauhtémoc, Veracruz, México (18.80602°N, 97.12987°W; WGS 84; 2325 m elev.). We did not collect the lizard, but instead caught and photographed it, and then released it back to the leaf litter (Fig. 1). The photo voucher is deposited in the Digital Collection of Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM PC 2820). The maximum elevational extent previously reported for *A. schiedii* was 2012 m from northwest of Tepetlaxitla in the Municipality of Magdalena, Mexico (Vásquez-Cruz and Peralta-Hernández 2020, *op. cit.*) and our observation increases the known elevation of *A. schiedii* by 313 m.

We thank N. Camacho for cataloging the photograph and Luis Canseco-Márquez for confirming the species identity.



FIG. 1. An adult female *Anolis schiedii* from Cerro de Huiloapan, Huiloapan de Cuauhtémoc, Veracruz, México.

RAFAEL PERALTA-HERNÁNDEZ, Museo de Zoología, Facultad de estudios superiores Zaragoza, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Batalla 5 de Mayo s/n, Col. Ejército de Oriente, 09230, Ciudad de México, México (e-mail: phrafa4@gmail.com), **VÍCTOR VÁSQUEZ-CRUZ** (e-mail: victorbiolvc@gmail.com), **JORGE LUIS CASTILLO-JUÁREZ** (e-mail: joorge-luisjc@gmail.com), **ALFONSO KELLY-HERNÁNDEZ** (e-mail: alfonsokellyh@hotmail.com), and **DANIELA ALEGRÍA SÁNCHEZ** PIMVS Herpetario Palancoatl, Avenida 19 número 5525, Colonia Nueva Esperanza, Córdoba, Veracruz, México (e-mail: luciferi999@outlook.com); **PEDRO E. NAHUAT-CERVERA** Ekuneil Península de Yucatán. Calle 52, por 89 y 93, Colonia Centro. C.P. 97000. Mérida, Yucatán, México (e-mail: pedro.nahuat4@gmail.com).

ASPIDOSCELIS LABIALIS (Baja California Whiptail). **BODY SIZE and REPRODUCTION.** *Aspidoscelis labialis* is a monotypic species endemic to the west coast of Baja California Norte, México. This species is the least studied, most morphologically distinctive (Walker 1966. *Copeia* 1966:644–650; Lowe et al. 1966. *J. Arizona Acad. Sci.* 4:121–127), and genetically divergent member (Barley et al. 2019. *Mol. Phylogenet. Evol.* 132:284–295) within a subgroup of small-bodied, striped, and unspotted gonochoristic taxa in the