

## DESCRIPTION OF INVASIVE EXOTIC REPTILE SPECIES FROM THE LESSER ANTILLES



### *Anolis wattsii*

(Boulenger, 1894)

Common name: Watts' anole

Order : Squamata, Family : Dactyloidae

### Description

**Morphology.** Medium sized anole. The body colour is brown or olive, with or without darker transversal stripes. The head is reddish, with bluish marks. The ventral side varies from beige to yellow, and the dewlap from white to yellow, to orange.

**Standard body size (snout-vent length).** males: 39 to 58 mm; females: 36 to 46 mm.

**Sexual dimorphism.** Only males have a dewlap.

Females are darker than males, with brown-grey body colour, and may present light stripes in the middle of the back and on the flanks.

**Variations.** The body colour of the same individual can vary from light to dark, depending on its physiological condition.

**Possible confusion with other species.**

### Distribution

**Native.** Antigua (including satellite islets).

**Introduced.** Caribbean: Saint Lucia (Daltry, 2009; Krauss, 2010), Trinidad (White and Hailey, 2006; Fiji and Auguste, 2017).

## **Biology and ecology**

**Habitat.** *Anolis watsii* is able to inhabit most Caribbean terrestrial habitats, from the coastal environments to humid highland forests. The species is also observed in anthropized habitats (Daltry, 2009).

**Diet.** Insectivore and frugivore (Daltry, 2009).

**Reproduction.** Reproduction happen throughout the year. The female lays a single egg at one or two weeks intervals (Daltry, 2009).

**Behaviour.** Males may extend their dewlap in order to defend their territory, or when looking for a breeding partner.

## **Impact and management of introduced populations**

**Impact.** In Saint Lucia, the presence of *Anolis watsii* resulted in a reduced populations of the native species, *A. luciae* (Williams et al., 2019).

**Management.** To date, no targeted control measures have been established in the different regions where the species has been introduced.

## **Bibliography**

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