

INTRODUCED SPECIES

The Tentacled Snake, *Erpeton tentaculatum* Lacépède 1800 (Homalopsidae), in Florida

Joshua D. Holbrook¹ and Kenneth L. Krysko²

¹Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, USA (jdholbrook@gmail.com)

²Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA (kenneyk@flmnh.ufl.edu)

The Tentacled Snake, *Erpeton tentaculatum* Lacépède 1800, is a strictly aquatic species of Asian origin (Winokur 1977), which typically occurs in slow or stagnant bodies of fresh and brackish water (Hahn 1973), often in very turbid lakes, streams, and rice fields (Lovic 2010). This species feeds mostly on fishes, although small amounts of vegetation have also been documented in the diet (Hahn 1973). *Erpeton tentaculatum* possesses a pair of fleshy tentacles on the rostrum, which are likely used as both sensory structures (Winokur 1977) as well as an aid in camouflage (Smith et al. 2002). This species attains an adult length of 50–90 cm total length (Lovic 2010).

On 9 December 2010 at 2023 h, a juvenile (280 mm SVL, 305 mm total length) *Erpeton tentaculatum* was found just outside the property of an animal importer's facility at 6450 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Broward County, Florida (26.04591°N, 80.21976°W, WGS84 datum). This snake was found under a piece of artificial human debris directly adjacent to a source of water. The individual appeared dead, likely because of the cold (13 °C) evening, but revived after being warmed. The snake was deposited in the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (UF 163086). Species identification was confirmed by Gregory Watkins-Colwell, Yale Peabody Museum.

The introduction pathway for *Erpeton tentaculatum* in Florida is the pet trade. The adjacent areas surrounding the active facility are well known for unusual non-indigenous species and frequently searched for their illegally released or escaped animals. This snake likely had escaped from an enclosure at the importer's facility or was intentionally released, and represents the first known voucher for this family and species in Florida. Further searches by the authors and colleagues have failed to turn up any more individuals of *Erpeton tentaculatum*, and a breeding population is not suspected, nor likely due to insufficient habitat in the general area.

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JOSHUA D. HOLBROOK

Tentacled Snake (*Erpeton tentaculatum*) (UF 163086), collected on 9 December 2010 in Hollywood, Broward County, Florida.

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Cuban Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) in Saint Lucia

Matthew N. Morton¹ and Christopher A. Cox²

¹Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Les Augrès Manor, Trinity, Jersey JE3 5BP, Channel Islands, Great Britain (matthew.morton@durrell.org)

²Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, P.O. Box 1111, Castries, Saint Lucia, West Indies (ccox@cehi.org.lc)

Photographs by Nathan A. Wood (Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust)

Cuban Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*) are native to the Bahama Islands (Cay Sal, Conception, Crooked, Acklins, Grand Bahama, Little Bahama, Rum Cay, and San Salvador island banks), Cuba and associated

cays, Isla de La Juventud, and Little Cayman, including most satellites and cays with even rudimentary vegetation. The species also has become established in Jamaica, either naturally or through human mediation. More