

First report of the Mourning Gecko, *Lepidodactylus lugubris* (Duméril & Bibron 1836), from The Bahamas

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The Mourning Gecko, *Lepidodactylus lugubris* (Duméril & Bibron 1836), is an all-female parthenogenetic species complex with at least six known clones native to the western Pacific and Indian Ocean islands (Yamashiro et al. 2000; Zug 2013). This species has been introduced to many areas around the world (Kraus 2009; Krysko et al. 2011; Hoogmoed & Avila-Pires 2015), although the only known record of this species in the Caribbean is from Grande Terre, Guadeloupe (Henderson and Breuil 2012). Here, we report it for the first time from The Bahamas.

The island of North Bimini in The Bahamas is known to have seven species of lizards, one of which (*Sphaerodactylus argus* Gosse 1850) is suspected of being introduced (Buckner et al. 2012). Between 28 February and 2 March 2016, we surveyed the islands of North and South Bimini, The Bahamas. On North Bimini, we inspected the premises of the Bimini Big Game Resort and Marina, Alice Town (25.727001°, -79.295807°) each night between 1900–2115 h. There, we collected 11 *Lepidodactylus lugubris* (Fig. 1). Nearly all individuals were found next to lights on walls, but one was captured on the ground. All specimens collected were deposited in the Division of Herpetology (UF-Herpetology), Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (UF 177569–177571, 177579–177584, 177595–177596).

This species was confirmed as *Lepidodactylus lugubris* diploid clone A, the most common and widespread of the clones (Zug 2013). We are uncertain of its introduction pathway on North Bimini, but it likely arrived as a stowaway on cargo or plants because of the high number of tourists visiting the island, as well as ornamental plants being imported for landscaping.



Figure 1. The Mourning Gecko, *Lepidodactylus lugubris* clone A, from North Bimini, The Bahamas.

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