

Discovery of geckos, *Sphaerodactylus macrolepis* Günther and *Sphaerodactylus sputator* Sparrman, on Prickly Pear Cays, Anguilla, British West Indies

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I report the first records of *Sphaerodactylus* from the Prickly Pear Cays of Anguilla. Two species of the genus are known from the Anguilla Bank, *S. parvus* and *S. sputator*, but neither has been recorded from the Prickly Pear Cays (Hodge et al. 2003, Powell and Henderson 2012). Here, I document the occurrence of *S. sputator* and *S. macrolepis* on those islands, the latter species being a native of the Puerto Rico region and not known previously to occur on the Anguilla Bank.

I went to Prickly Pear Cays on 26–30th March 2018 with my colleague, Jonas Hochart, to make an inventory of the flora during conservation work for *Iguana delicatissima*. Once there, we also explored the fauna of the cays and soon located a population of *S. macrolepis* on Prickly Pear Cay East. Lizards were in the center of the island and on the rocky coast. It was not found on Prickly Pear Cay West. We found *S. sputator* to be common on both cays. With three species of *Sphaerodactylus* now known from the Anguilla Bank, I have constructed a table to aid in their identification (Table 1).

Prickly Pear East is uninhabited, but has two restaurants and is visited daily by tourists and charter boats. *Sphaerodactylus macrolepis* may have been inadvertently transported by charter boats based in the Virgin Islands. This would explain why this species is present on Prickly Pear East and not on Prickly Pear West, which is only rarely visited. Given the presence of *Sphaerodactylus sputator* on the islands of the Anguilla Bank surrounding the Prickly Pear Cays, it was either introduced from those nearby islands or was native and overlooked until now.



Figure 1. A female *Sphaerodactylus macrolepis* from Prickly Pear East.

Table 1. Physical and behavioral characteristics that differentiate the three species of *Sphaerodactylus* on the Anguilla Bank. The scale counts of *S. sputator* and *S. parvus* are those of King (1962); those of *S. macrolepis* are based on two specimens from Prickly Pear East (PPE). Activity and habitat data are personal observations.

	<i>Sphaerodactylus sputator</i>	<i>Sphaerodactylus parvus</i>	<i>Sphaerodactylus macrolepis</i> on PPE
Pupils in daylight:	Elliptical	Slightly elliptical	Slightly elliptical
Activity:	Nocturnal	Diurnal	Nocturnal
Habitat:	Arboreal, leaf litter, open areas	Leaf litter, shady areas	Leaf litter, open areas
Mid-body scales:	49–62	45–51	41–43
4th finger lamellae:	8–12	9–11	11
Keeled ventral scales:	None	Chest, anterior abdomen	Only gulars
Sexual dimorphism:	None	None	Males: head color different from body, often lavender, slightly speckled, scapular ocellus absent. Females: head color same as body, broad spots often fused. Scapular ocellus black with two white spots inside, usually clearly visible.

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