



INTRODUCED SPECIES

# First Record of a Polychrotid Lizard, The Many-colored Bush Anole (*Polychrus marmoratus*), in Florida, USA

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Many-colored Bush Anoles, genus *Polychrus* (meaning “many colored”), are medium-sized arboreal lizards native throughout much of Central and South America, including some offshore islands (Ribeiro-Junior 2015; Prates

et al. 2016). Although traditionally placed in the same clade (Polychrotinae) as true anoles (*Anolis*; Dactyloidae) based on similar morphological traits (e.g., presence of an extendable dewlap) and considerable ecological similarity, *Polychrus*



**Fig. 1.** An adult female Many-colored Bush Anole, *Polychrus marmoratus* (photographic voucher UF-Herpetology 179378), collected on 8 March 2016 in Broward County, Florida. Photograph by Isaac V. Powell.

is now considered a basal sister-group (Polychrotidae; see Schulte et al. 1998, 2003; Frost et al. 2001; Townsend et al. 2011). *Polychrus* lacks subdigital lamellae despite being highly arboreal, suggesting that — if the hypothesis of *Polychrus* as a primitive ancestor of dactyloid anoles is true — toepads evolved in *Anolis* following the evolution of arboreality, rather than preceding it (Losos 2009). This contradicts classical hypotheses that propose that the evolution of toepads spurred the colonization of arboreal habitats (Losos 2009). Also unlike *Anolis*, *Polychrus* has a prehensile tail, which can account for about 60% of the 30–50 cm total length of the lizard, and has earned it the pseudonym Monkey-tailed Anole.

Little is known about the natural history of *Polychrus*, largely attributable to infrequent observations because of its highly arboreal and cryptic lifestyle (Vitt and Lacher 1981). Reproduction appears to occur in October–January (peaking in November), and clutches contain multiple eggs (*P. acutirostris*; Garda et al. 2012). Across its native range, *Polychrus* is a generalist insectivore with an apparent preference for spiders (Araeneae), grasshoppers and crickets (Orthoptera), although it will eat plant material (Garda et al. 2012).

*Polychrus marmoratus* (Linnaeus 1758) is native to Guyana, French Guiana, Suriname, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Isla Margarita, and Trinidad and Tobago. Herein, we document the first record of this species in Florida, USA.

On 8 March 2016 at 2300 h, we found an adult female *Polychrus marmoratus* sleeping in a tree next to an importer's facility at 6450 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Broward County (26.04591°N, 80.21976°W, Datum WGS84). Digital photographic vouchers of the live animal (Fig. 1) were deposited in the Division of Herpetology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida (UF-Herpetology 179378). The identification was confirmed by Max A. Nickerson (UF).

Although we have no current evidence of reproduction or an established population of *P. marmoratus* in Florida, our note documents the first record of this family (Polychrotidae) in Florida (Krysko et al. 2016) and the first known record of any polychrotid introduced outside of its native range (see Kraus 2009). This lizard likely was released or escaped from the animal importer in Hollywood, which has been impli-

cated in the introduction of at least 46 (25.5%) of the 180 confirmed herpetofaunal taxa introduced in Florida from 1863–2015 (Krysko et al. 2016; also see Fedler et al. 2016).

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