

Observation of a brown anole at the Kovan area

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Subject: Brown anole, *Anolis sagrei* (Reptilia: Squamata: Polychrotidae).

Subject identified by: Emmanuel Shyue Chian Goh.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Kovan area, Tampines Road, compound of Horizon Floral & Design Pte Ltd; 28 October 2020; 1814 hrs.

Habitat: Urban parkland. In the compound of a garden centre/plant nursery.

Observers: Emmanuel Shyue Chian Goh and Rachel Wan Xin Seah.

Observation: An example of around 15 cm in total length was observed clinging vertically to a cable pole (Fig. 1). When the observers approached for a better photograph, the subject fled into a clutter of flower pots around the pole (Fig. 2) and was not seen again.

Remarks: The non-native brown anole was first observed in Singapore in 2012 in the Marina Bay area (Tan & Lim, 2012 as *Norops sagrei*). Observations in other parts of Singapore have since emerged over the years, including Bishan (Woo & Wee, 2015), Singapore Botanic Gardens (Tan et al., 2017), a plant nursery in Thomson (Tay, 2019), and most recently at Jurong Lake Gardens (Cai & Wu, 2020). As the localities of brown anole observations seem to be linked to ornamental plants, it appears that this lizard's spread in Singapore is largely facilitated by the garden nursery trade.

References:

Cai H & Wu Z (2020) Brown anoles at Jurong Lake Gardens. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2020: 147-148.

Tan CLY, Chua JLE & Woo HPM (2017) Brown anole at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2017: 48.

Tan HH & Lim KKP (2012) Recent introduction of the brown anole *Norops sagrei* (Reptilia: Squamata: Dactyloidae) to Singapore. Nature in Singapore, 5: 359-362.

Tay A (2019) Brown anole in a plant nursery at Thomson Road. Singapore Biodiversity Records, 2019: 82.

Woo WX & Wee SXR (2015) Brown anole at Bishan. Singapore Biodiversity Records. 2015: 61.



Fig. 1 Brown anole perching on cable pole.



Fig. 2 Location where brown anole was observed.

Photographs by Emmanuel Shyue Chian Goh