

Biodiversity Record: Brown anole on Sentosa Island

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

Subject identified by: Norman T-L. Lim.

Location, date and time: Sentosa Island, forest near Siloso Point; 22 September 2025; around 1330 hrs.

Habitat: Coastal secondary forest.

Observers: Faith Naomi J.E. Lim, Bryan Z.D. Goh, Justin W.J. Ang, Ethan E.Y. Tan and Norman T-L. Lim.

Observation: One example of about 10 cm total length was found at the base of a tree trunk (Fig. 1), when setting up a camera trap for an ecological study.

Remarks: This entry is part of an on-going series of records to document the spread of the introduced brown anole in Singapore. The present record may be the first from a small adjacent island (see Figueroa et al., 2023). Although Sentosa is separated from Singapore Island by a narrow strip of sea, it is connected by a wide bridge with ornamental vegetation planted along its length.

The presence of the brown anole on Sentosa should not be unexpected. These lizards could have found their way to the island via the bridge, or they were accidentally brought there hidden among ornamental plants from nurseries on Singapore Island.

According to the Environmental Management office of Sentosa Development Corporation, their wildlife management officers have noted the presence of brown anoles in eight other locations on the Sentosa Island from as early as 8 April 2021 (unpublished data, Fig. 2).

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Fig. 1. In-situ dorso-lateral view of brown anole at Sentosa on 22 September 2025 (Photograph by: Norman T-L. Lim).

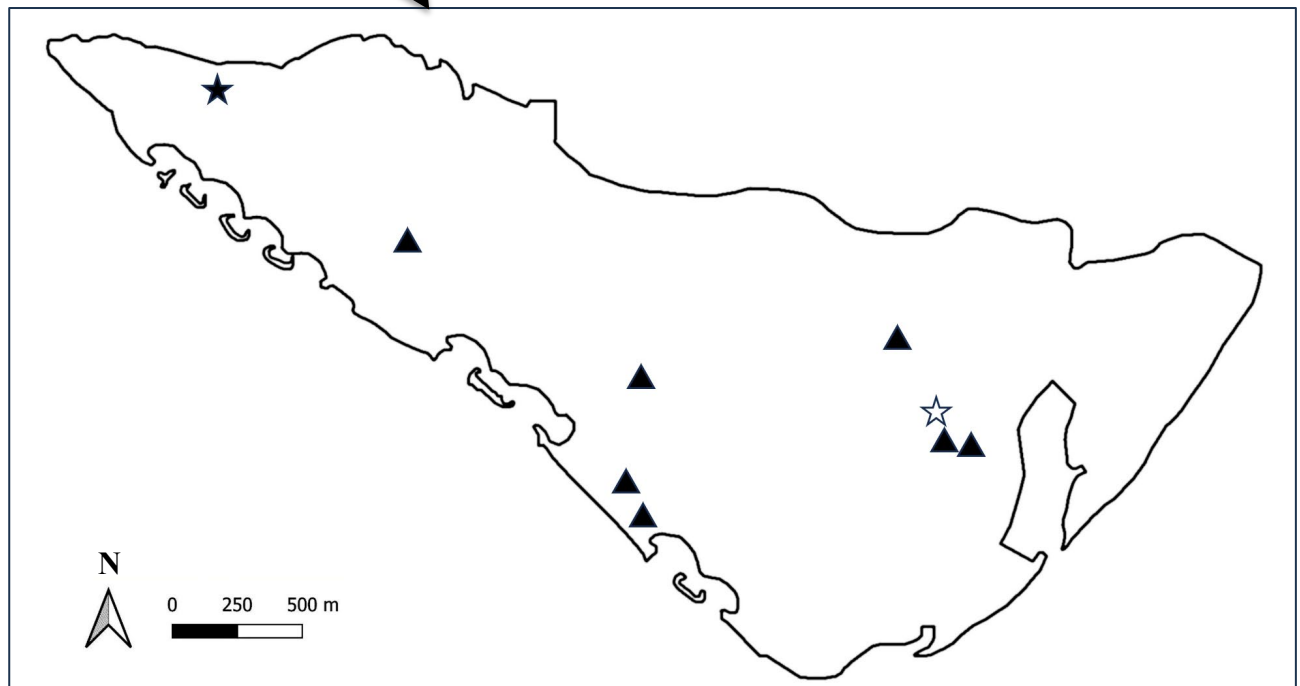
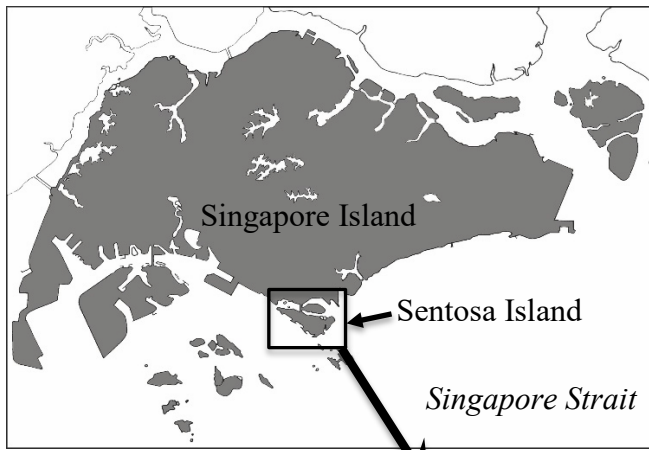


Fig. 2. Map of Sentosa Island showing locations where brown anoles have been recorded. White star indicates first recorded sighting on 8 April 2021. Black star indicates most recent sighting on 22 September 2025. Black triangles represent sightings between first and latest records. Data courtesy of the Sentosa Development Corporation.

Literature cited:

Figueroa A, Low MEY & Lim KKP (2023) Singapore's herpetofauna: updated and annotated checklist, history, conservation, and distribution. *Zootaxa*, 5287: 1–378.