

Brown Anole

Anolis sagrei

Order: Squamata

Family: Iguanid

Description: 5-8" long. Extensible throat fan is yellow to red-orange, with a central white line. Enlarged toe pads and short snout. Back is tan to dark brown, with dark-bordered, interconnected light diamonds or stripe. Prominent crest on males' tails, no crest on back.

Special Features:

- **Color** – Pattern on back fades to a uniform tan in mature males.
- **Behavior** – Males vigilantly protect territories, with intense head-bobs or push-ups and colorful displays of throat fans.
- **Habitat Use** – Although frequently found on trees and shrubs, the Brown Anole is a ground-dweller. It never ventures far from the ground, and it rests head down so that it can flee earthward when threatened.
- **Activity** – Diurnal

Similar Species: Five; two in our range. The Cuban Anole and the Bahaman Anole.

Range and Habitat: Native to Jamaica, Cuba, and the Bahamas and introduced into peninsular Florida. Lives on trees, shrubs, fences, walls, lumber stacks, and rock piles. Usually within 6' of the ground.

Wild Diet: Ants, beetles, grasshoppers, spiders, and other insects are caught by swift dashes.

Reproduction: Mates in spring and summer, with single eggs, laid every couple of weeks from June to September. Eggs hatch in 30 days. Courtship involves colorful displays and visual signals.

Predators: Birds, larger lizards, and snakes, as well as house pets (dogs and cats).