

Knight Anole

Anoles equestris

Order: Squamata

Family: Iguanid

Description: 13-19" long. Larger lizard with wrinkled bony head, pale pink extensible throat fan, and enlarged toe pads. Snout long and wedge-shaped. Bright green; can change to brown. Yellow or white stripe under eye and over shoulder. Tail slightly compressed. Low crest, most pronounced on neck and shoulders.

Special Features:

- **Behavior** – This lizard becomes fiercely defensive when a snake, or anything resembling a snake, such as a stick or a garden hose, gets too close. It turns broadside to the threat, extends the throat fan, raises the back crest, and gapes menacingly. Knight Anoles are relatively slow and can be easily caught by hand, but their strong jaws and sharp teeth should give collectors pause.
- **Habitat Use** – Arboreal. Under shady canopies of large trees.
- **Activity** – Diurnal

Range and Habitat: Introduced into Dade and Broward counties, Florida. Native to Cuba.

Wild Diet: Insects, smaller lizards, and frogs.

Predators: Snakes, large birds.

Notes:

- In Florida, this species does not seem to survive cold winters in great number.
- Reproduces in summer.