

12-2013

First state record and interdiction for the Wood Slave, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (Moreau de Jonnès 1818) (Gekkonidae), in Maryland, USA.

Louis A. Somma

Florida State Collection of Arthropods, somma@ufl.edu

William L. Grogan Jr.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, groganw@doacs.state.fl.us

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/biosciherpetology>



Part of the [Biodiversity Commons](#), [Other Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Commons](#), and the [Zoology Commons](#)

Somma, Louis A. and Grogan, William L. Jr., "First state record and interdiction for the Wood Slave, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (Moreau de Jonnès 1818) (Gekkonidae), in Maryland, USA." (2013). *Papers in Herpetology*. 9.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/biosciherpetology/9>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Papers in the Biological Sciences at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Papers in Herpetology by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.



INTRODUCED SPECIES

First State Record and Interdiction for the Wood Slave, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (Moreau de Jonnès 1818) (Gekkonidae), in Maryland, USA

Louis A. Somma¹, Kenneth L. Krysko¹, and William L. Grogan, Jr.²

¹Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, USA (somma@ufl.edu; kenneyk@ufl.edu)

²Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Gainesville, Florida 32614, USA (william.grogan@freshfromflorida.com)

The Wood Slave, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (Moreau de Jonnès 1818; Fig. 1), is indigenous to Africa south of the Sahara, with nonindigenous populations established in Cape Verde, Mexico, much of Central and South America, numerous localities in the Caribbean, perhaps Madagascar, and at least 21 counties in Florida, USA (Carranza and Arnold 2006; Kraus 2009; Krysko et al. 2011a, 2011b; Meshaka 2011; Powell and Henderson 2012). Recently, *H. mabouia* has successfully invaded temperate regions of southern Africa and northern peninsular Florida (Alexander and Marais 2007, Krysko and Somma 2007).

On 20 December 2012, Brian R. Grogan and Shane Forsythe collected and photographed one adult *Hemidactylus mabouia* found inside a furniture-moving truck at 8909 Amelung Street, Frederick, Frederick County, Maryland,

USA (39.3315°N, 77.35878°W, datum WGS84, elev. 138 m) (photographic voucher UF-Herpetology 171112; Fig. 2). This is a first state interdiction for Maryland and the northernmost record for *H. mabouia* in North America and the Western Hemisphere. The vehicle was transporting household furniture and other items from 3352 West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida (26.72617°N, 80.14458°W), where nonindigenous *H. mabouia* is currently established (Krysko et al. 2011b). This Maryland voucher does not represent an established population, but illustrates how this species can be introduced to new areas. The fact that no produce or horticulture was involved indicates that *H. mabouia* can be transported without these products, a behavior shared with its highly invasive congener, the Mediterranean Gecko (*H. turcicus* [Linnæus 1758]; Selcer 1986).



Fig. 1. A Wood Slave, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (UF-Herpetology 171426), collected on 24 October 2013 in Palm Beach County, Florida. Photograph by Kenneth L. Krysko.



Fig. 2. Wood Slave, *Hemidactylus mabouia* (UF-Herpetology 171112), collected on 20 December 2012 in Frederick County, Maryland. Photograph by Brian R. Grogan.

Acknowledgments

We thank Kevin M. Enge for species confirmation, and Brian R. Grogan for collection details and the digital photographic voucher. We are grateful to Robert Powell for providing a crucial reference.

Literature Cited

Alexander, G. and J. Marais. 2007. *A Guide to the Reptiles of Southern Africa*. Struik Publishers, Cape Town, South Africa.

- Carranza, S. and E.N. Arnold. 2006. Systematics, biogeography, and evolution of *Hemidactylus* geckos (Reptilia: Gekkonidae) elucidated using mitochondrial DNA sequences. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 38:531–545.
- Kraus, F. 2009. *Alien Reptiles and Amphibians, a Scientific Compendium, and Analysis*. Invading Nature: Springer Series in Invasion Biology 4. Springer, Dordrecht, The Netherlands.
- Krysko, K.L., J.P. Burgess, M.R. Rochford, C.R. Gillette, D. Cueva, K.M. Enge, L.A. Somma, J.L. Stabile, D.C. Smith, J.A. Wasilewski, G.N. Kieckhefer III, M.C. Granatosky, and S.V. Nielsen. 2011a. Verified non-indigenous amphibians and reptiles in Florida from 1863 through 2010: Outlining the invasion process and identifying invasion pathways and status. *Zootaxa* 3028:1–64 + MorphoBank Project No. p536 (<http://www.morphobank.org/permalink/?P536>).
- Krysko, K.L., K.M. Enge, and P.E. Moler. 2011b. *Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Florida*. Final Report, Project Agreement 08013. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee.
- Krysko, K.L. and L.A. Somma. 2007. Geographic distribution. *Hemidactylus mabouia* (African House Gecko). *Herpetological Review* 38:352.
- Meshaka, W.E., Jr. 2011. A runaway train in the making: The exotic amphibians, reptiles, turtles, and crocodilians of Florida. Monograph 1. *Herpetological Conservation & Biology* 6:1–101.
- Powell, R. and R.W. Henderson (eds.). 2012. Island lists of West Indian amphibians and reptiles. *Bulletin of the Florida Museum of Natural History* 51:85–166.
- Selcer, K.W. 1986. Life history of a successful colonizer: The Mediterranean Gecko, *Hemidactylus turcicus*, in southern Texas. *Copeia* 1986:956–962.