

Fairchild's anole (*Anolis fairchildi*)

Hosting the *Anolis* meeting at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's had an added special significance to anole biologists. On a 1930 expedition to the tiny island of Cay Sal, a small remnant from a once-larger Cay Sal Bank that sits in the ocean passage between Cuba and the southern tip of Florida, malacologist Paul Bartsch came across two anoles; the ubiquitous brown anole (*A. sagrei*) and a curiously large green anole, found to sport white speckling along its flanks. Bartsch collected specimens and passed them on to the famous Caribbean herpetologist, Thomas Barbour. Upon investigating the specimens, Barbour noted that differences in dorsal and temporal scales separated this island population from two morphologically similar species; the Cuban green anole (*A. porcatius*) and the Bahamian green anole (*A. smaragdinus*). In 1935, Barbour, along with a fellow herpetologist Benjamin Shreve, published their description of this curious new lizard. The authors chose to patronize the species *Anolis fairchildi*, in honor of their good friend, expedition companion, and occasional financier, David Fairchild. Aboard a legendary research vessel owned by Allison Armour, the 1315-ton steamer *Utowana*, Barbour and Fairchild, himself a prolific botanist, had explored the flora and fauna of the Caribbean throughout much of the early 20th century.



Fairchild's anole (*Anolis fairchildi*). Cay Sal, 30 May 2012. Courtesy of Michael Sorenson.

And so, by hosting the VII *Anolis* Symposium at the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden, the former private botanical collection of David Fairchild – including many original collections from his Caribbean expeditions, we provided a 21st century update to the ongoing *Anolis*- Fairchild relationship. We would like to thank the current Director of Fairchild's Gardens, Dr. Carl Lewis, for his enthusiastic support of both *Anolis* research in the gardens themselves, and for providing such an exciting and historic venue for the VII *Anolis* Symposium.

Graham Reynolds provides a charming and more detailed account of the history of Fairchild's anole on *Anole Annals* and in his recent *Breviora* paper, in which he and colleagues document their own exploration of Cay Sal and, for the first time, explore the genetic relationship of *A. fairchildi* to the rest of the *carolinensis* green anole clade.

<http://www.anoleannals.org/2018/06/24/anole-outpost-the-cay-sal-bank-part-ii/>

Reynolds, R.G., Puente-Rolón, A.R., Castle, A.L., Van De Schoot, M. and Geneva, A.J., 2018. Herpetofauna of Cay Sal Bank, Bahamas and Phylogenetic Relationships of *Anolis fairchildi*, *Anolis sagrei*, and *Tropidophis curtus* from the Region. *Breviora*, 560(1), pp.1-19.