

Anoles

- Anoles belong to the genus *Anolis*, the same family as Iguanas. Even though they can rapidly change color, anoles are *not* in the same family as chameleons, which are native to Africa and Madagascar.
- Three pronunciations are common and acceptable: *un-ho'-lee*, *an'-ole*, *un-nole'*
- Anoles have long toes with adhesive toepads and claws, which enable them to climb up almost any surface.
- Green Anoles can also change color based on emotion – if two males have a territorial dispute, the winner turns bright green and the loser turns brown: *Green is supreme; brown is down!*
- When an adult Green Anole and an adult Brown Anole fight, the Green Anole usually kills Brown Anole (and then turns bright green!)
- There are over 200 species of anoles found in North and Central America; 11 are found in Florida; 2 are found in Corkscrew, so far.
- Both male and female have dewlaps, but it's larger in the male; it's used for threats, courtship, and defending territory. Doing pushups is another threat display.
- Mature males may have a crest that runs down the back (called a "roach") which is used to impress other males when competing for territory or for females.



- Anoles shed skin in pieces (like people peeling after a sunburn) rather than all at once like a snake; they recycle (eat) their flakes, which are a good source of minerals.
- The Brown Anole was introduced to the Dade County and Keys areas in the 1950's in shipments of plants from the West Indies, but it didn't begin appearing elsewhere in Florida until the early 1970's.

Its spread is probably due to the fact that females lay their eggs in low leafy vegetation such as that found in plant nurseries, and during the building boom in Florida in the early 1970's, Brown Anole eggs were carried to different parts of the state in tropical landscape plants which developers purchased from nurseries near Miami and the Keys; the eggs hatched and the rest is history.

GREEN ANOLE			BROWN ANOLE
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APPEARANCE

light-colored stripe running down back.....female..... no stripe down back.....male..... white/gray in SW Florida, pinkish elsewhere..... dewlap.....	diamond-shaped pattern down back patterned/spotted, but no diamond shapes bright orange-red with yellow border
bright green to light brown, even colors;..... coloration..... green on vegetation or light background, brown on bark or dark background; in weather over 70°, tend to stay green, in cold weather tend to stay brown	brown to very dark brown; varied colors; large males become really dark during territorial displays but quickly fade to dull brown when approached by anything other than another male brown anole
2–3 years..... LIFESPAN	about 3 years
native to North America and West Indies;..... HABITAT in West Indies, coexists with Brown Anole by living in canopies of forests; cold tolerant and found to southern TN	native to West Indies; in West Indies, coexists with Green Anole by living on ground or a few feet of ground; not cold tolerant and found only in penin. FL
mate late spring to early summer;..... BREEDING several clutches each summer, 2 eggs each laid in decaying vegetation higher in trees ; 60-90 days to hatch	mate late spring to early summer; several clutches each summer, 2 eggs each laid in decaying vegetation on ground ; 60-90 days to hatch
usually flees by running up ESCAPE	usually flees by running down
mostly insects but other small invertebrates;..... DIET also will prey upon young Brown Anoles	mostly insects but other small invertebrates; also will prey upon young Green Anoles