

NOTES

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**AN EARLIER REPORT OF THE EXOTIC NORTHERN
CURLY-TAILED LIZARD IN MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

HENRY T. SMITH¹ AND RICHARD M. ENGEMAN^{2*}

¹*Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service,
13798 S.E. Federal Highway, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455*

²*National Wildlife Research Center, 4101 LaPorte Ave.,
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521-2154*

**Author to whom correspondence should be addressed:*

E-mail: richard.m.engeman@aphis.usda.gov

The Palm Beach County introduction of the exotic northern curly-tailed lizard (*Leiocephalus carinatus armouri*) was reported to have occurred as a result of 20 pairs released in Palm Beach during the 1940s, with an expanded range of approximately 20 city blocks by 1959 (see reviews in Duellman and Schwartz 1958, King 1960, Weigl et al. 1969). By 1968, this population had extended 3.2 km north and 5.6 km south (Weigl et al. 1969). By 1986, the species was common farther south at Woolbright Road and the Intracoastal Waterway in Boynton Beach (Smith and Engeman in press); and later was reported 16 May 1999 at the extreme southern end of Martin County (Hauge and Butterfield 2000), which sits on the northern border of Palm Beach County. A recent survey of this population conducted in September 2002 suggested a minimum north-south range expansion of at least 46.3 km south, and 34.1 km north, beyond the 1968 boundaries (Smith et al. in review).

We here report an earlier finding of northern curly-tailed lizards in Martin County than the May 1999 county record observation. At approximately 12:15 on 12 May 1994, HTS observed a ca. 7-8 cm SVL (snout to vent length) specimen in a parking area at the northeast corner of the intersection of County Line Road and U.S. Highway 1, in Martin County. Three adult lizards (ca. 6-8 cm SVL) were observed at the same location at about 15:30 on 13 May. From 1994 to the present this species has been readily seen at the intersection (HTS pers. obs.). This location is only .3 km south of the site reported by Hauge and Butterfield (2000); however, the observations are 5 years earlier. Not knowing the documented range of the species at the time of these observations in 1994, but knowing the lizard to be abundant regionally (Smith and Engeman in press), HTS previously dismissed these observations because they were thought unremarkable. Our recent interest in this species and subsequent literature review have spurred this report of an earlier finding. We suggest wildlife biologists occasionally review their "ancient" field notes, and share information with colleagues, so that similar data not be unceremoniously overlooked or dismissed.

LITERATURE CITED

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