

**ANOLIS HOMOLECHIS HOMOLECHIS** (NCN). **THERMAL BIOLOGY AND MICROHABITAT.** Mean body (29.4–33.8°C) and air temperatures (27.9–32.1°C) have been reported for *Anolis homolechis* at several places in Cuba (Rodríguez Schettino 1999. In L. Rodríguez Schettino [ed.], *The Iguanid Lizards of Cuba*, pp. 104–380. University Press of Florida, Gainesville). Previous reports are from several forest types, but do not include microphyllous semi-deciduous forest on limestone. Here, we report dry-season observations of *A. homolechis* from such a forest at El Cenote, 16 km SSE of Playa Larga, Península de Zapata (Zapata Swamp), Matanzas Province, Cuba.

On 9 April 1994 between 0900 and 1130 h, we collected data on 10 males and two females. Lizard body temperatures ( $T_B$ ) and air temperatures ( $T_A$ ) at the capture site were obtained with a Schultheis rapid-reading cloacal thermometer. One lizard that was moving when first seen was excluded from the analysis. After taking each body temperature, lizards were released at their place of capture. We also recorded microhabitat data on perch site, orientation, and insolation category.

Both females had a  $T_A$  of 31.0°C, and a  $T_B$  of 32.0°C. Mean  $T_B$  of males (30.6°C; range: 28.0–33.4°C) was higher than their mean  $T_A$  (29.9°C; range: 28.0–32.8°C). Air and body temperatures were highly correlated ( $r = 0.92$ ;  $p < 0.01$ ) and increased during the course of the morning from 28.0°C ( $T_A$  and  $T_B$ ) at 0920 h to 32.8°C ( $T_A$ ) and 33.4°C ( $T_B$ ) at 1130 h.

Except for one male on the ground, all males were on tree trunks, heads oriented down; mean perch height for males was 0.36 m (range: 0.2–0.5 m;  $CV = 28.5$ ). Both females were 0.20 m above the ground, also head downwards. Males were as often in the shade as in filtered sun; both females were in filtered sun.

Based on our data, the thermal biology of *A. homolechis* in a microphyllous semi-deciduous forest on limestone during the dry season at Zapata Swamp is similar to that reported by Ruibal (1961. *Evolution* 15:98–111) during the wet season ( $T_B = 31.8^\circ\text{C}$ ;  $T_A = 30.5^\circ\text{C}$ ) for a population in a broadleaf semi-deciduous forest on limestone located 15 km SW of Camagüey (city). Also, microhabitat use, assessed as position on the tree and body orientation, is similar. However, the mean perch height reported here is less than values reported previously (see summary in Rodríguez Schettino, *op. cit.*), probably because the trees of the forest at El Cenote have thin trunks, are not tall, and are scattered, which provides a homogeneous, structurally low habitat for *A. homolechis*. Our findings suggest that *A. homolechis* maintains a body temperature slightly higher than air temperature during both wet and dry seasons, and that between-site differences in perch height may depend on vegetation structure.

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