



Amazing Anoles!
A free 3-minute presentation



Anoles are amazing lizards. There are about 400 different species and about half of those live in the Caribbean. Each island or group of islands in the Lesser Antilles has one or two species, and this one, *Anolis gingivinus*, is one of ours.



You can see this lizard all over the island. It is usually perched on a tree where it waits for insects to walk past.



They can change color quite dramatically, to blend into their surroundings or to absorb more heat from the sun...



...or to signal other anoles, like this one in its most intimidating fighting colors.



Because they sit and wait for food to come by, they will defend their territory aggressively.



The second native anole on St. Martin is the Bearded Anole, *Anolis pogus*. It is found only on St. Martin and nowhere else in the world. It is also found primarily in shady areas because it is not very heat tolerant. Often it is tan with blue around its eye.



It can also be dark brown with reddish markings...



...or various shades of tan or gray.



Their fighting colors include black spots behind the eye and black on their tail.



When young, *Anolis pogus* has stronger markings on its back...



...and sometimes a whole rainbow of very bright colors.



At night, anoles sleep on leaves in order to be safe from predators on the ground.



St. Martin also has introduced anole species. The Puerto Rican Crested Anole (*Anolis cristatellus*) is originally from Puerto Rico, but probably came here via Florida. These lizards may hitchhike on plants that are imported for landscaping. This species only lives at Port de Plaisance in Cole Bay.



The Cuban Brown Anole (*Anolis sagrei*) also probably came from Florida. It only lives at the cruise ship terminal.



Human culture in the Caribbean echoes anole diversity: although many similarities exist in the region, each island is different. Each time you see one of our native anoles, remember that it is a rare and unique experience.



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DE MER**