

**Population Estimates and Management of *Ameiva polops* (Cope) at Ruth Island, United States Virgin Islands**

ABSTRACT.—The endemic and endangered St. Croix Ground Lizard (*Ameiva polops*) had not been surveyed on Ruth Island (7.5 ha), a man-made islet off the south-central coast of St. Croix, US Virgin Islands. In two habitats (woodland and scrub), we conducted five surveys along 20 randomly selected fixed-width plots (25 x 4 m) from late March to late May 2003. The total weighted mean population estimate was 60 lizards. Lizards were more abundant (57% of the total weighted) in smaller areas of woodland than in larger areas of scrub, and absent from barren habitat – unvegetated raised coral rubble. Our recent population estimates determine that *Ameiva polops* has increased on Ruth Island since 10 lizards were first translocated there in 1990.

KEYWORDS.—Endangered species, lizard, population estimates, St. Croix, scrub, woodland