

Scientific note

First record of *Brookesia micra* from Nosy Anjombavola, northern Madagascar

(Squamata: Chamaeleonidae)

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Fig. 1. Female *Brookesia micra* from Nosy Anjombavola, northern Madagascar.

The micro chameleon *Brookesia micra* Glaw, Köhler, Townsend & Vences, 2012 is among the smallest known amniote vertebrates, with a previously recorded maximum total length of 28.8 mm. With its known range previously restricted to Nosy Hara, a small limestone island with an area of approximately 2.7 km² off northern Madagascar, *B. micra* probably has one of the smallest known distribution ranges among all chameleon species (Glaw et al. 2012, Villeneuve 2017).

On 1 April 2026 at around 5:30 p.m., we found a female of *B. micra* on Nosy Anjombavola, a small karstic island of ca. 0.4 km² situated about 2 km from Nosy Hara (Fig. 1, see also Galileo X-Plorer “Riesengroß und winzig klein” (<https://www.joyn.at/play/serien/galileo-x-plorer/2026-16-riesengross-und-winzig-klein?from=%2Fsuche%3Fpreferer%3D%252F%26q%3Dgalileo%2Bexplorer>)). The locality was ca. 40 m above sea level at -12.265278, 48.976111 (obtained from the compass app on iPhone 14 Pro). Both islands are included in the larger Nosy Hara National Park. The chameleon was perching about 10–20 cm above the ground in low vegetation among large limestone rocks. The surrounding habitat consisted of undisturbed dense deciduous dry

forest. The individual was roughly measured alive using a ruler (snout–vent length 22 mm, tail length 10 mm, total length 32 mm). This is close to the largest recorded snout–vent length (SVL) of *B. micra*, although Villeneuve (2017) recorded snout–vent lengths of up to 23 mm. *Brookesia micra* is distinguished from the other members of the *B. minima* group by its exceptionally short relative tail length (tail length/SVL 0.37–0.49 vs. 0.49–0.92) and often by orange tail coloration in adults (Glaw et al. 2012). The individual from Nosy Anjombavola had a relative tail length of about 0.45 but lacked an orange-coloured tail (Fig. 1). As no permits for sampling or collection were available, the animal was released after being examined, photographed and filmed.

This record represents the first documented occurrence of *B. micra* outside Nosy Hara and confirms its presence on a second island of the Nosy Hara archipelago. Earlier surveys of nearby islands and the adjacent mainland failed to detect the species (Metcalf et al. 2007, Glaw et al. 2012).

References

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