Motor Self-Regulation in *Anolis evermanni*

The ability to motor self-regulate is one of many benchmarks that can be used to evaluate and compare the cognitive abilities of different animal taxa. Motor self-regulation refers to the ability of an animal to modify a natural behavior in order to solve a task, often involving retrieving a food reward. In this study, I assessed the motor self-regulation ability of *Anolis evermanni*. As sit and wait predators, *A. evermanni*, commonly known as emerald anoles, are triggered to strike prey after visual perception of movement. This results in a foraging style characterized by a singular, quick, fluid movement. Refrainment from this strike behavior is evidence of the ability of *A. evermanni* to motor self-regulate. To assess this ability, I presented the anoles with a detour task. To successfully attain a food reward, anoles had to detour a clear barrier and approach the cricket from the side. In this study, five female and four male emerald anoles were tested for their ability, measured in test latency, number of mistakes over trials, and total trials required to successfully complete the task. Not only were all subjects able to detour the barrier, but they also were eventually able to complete the task with no or minimal contact with the barrier. These findings suggest that *A. evermanni* are capable of motor self-regulation.