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Intended Audience: High School Students
Language: Plain language (simplified English)

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Translation

Hurricanes are expected to occur more often and become more dangerous due to climate change, but the impacts on the evolution of the wildlife in the areas that are affected by the hurricanes are still unknown. This project focuses on the changes in a population of the lizard *Anolis carolinensis* with specific physical characteristics as a result of Hurricane Irma, which occurred in 2017. We found that the anole lizard populations were physically different after the hurricane. The lizards had longer front and back limbs than the lizards that were found before the hurricane. This change was observed in two other islands and seemed to affect both females and males. These differences are believed to be caused by natural selection. In other words, longer limbs are a potentially beneficial trait in the environment left after the hurricane, meaning that lizards with longer limbs were able to live long enough to reproduce and pass on those traits. In this study, we observed changes in island lizards after a hurricane and believe that the predicted increase in hurricanes will have a great effect on the evolution of anole lizards.