

NEWS

# 'Sonic attacks' at US Embassy in Cuba may have just been crickets

By [Tamar Lapin](#)

January 6, 2019 | 5:05pm | Updated



An American flag flies at the US Embassy in Havana, Cuba.

AP

The ["sonic attacks"](#) that afflicted diplomats at the US Embassy in Cuba could have just been the work of crickets, according to a report Sunday.

The embassy in Havana cut its staff in half in 2017 after dozens of people complained of headaches, nausea and other ailments from hearing mysterious, penetrating high-pitched noises — believed to be an acoustic weapon — [possibly from the Russians](#).

But a fresh analysis of an audio recording made by US personnel in Cuba revealed that the source of the piercing din is the song of the Indies short-tailed cricket, known as *Anurogryllus celerinictus*, a study says.

"The recording is definitively a cricket that belongs to the same group," said Fernando Montealegre-Zapata, a professor of sensory biology at the University of Lincoln who participated in the study, [according to The Guardian](#). "The call of this Caribbean species is about 7 kHz, and is delivered at an unusually high rate, which gives humans the sensation of a continuous sharp trill."

The study, by Montealegre-Zapata and Alexander Stubbs at the University of California, was published Jan. 4 on the [website bioRxiv](#).

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