

Acanthodactylus beershebensis

Taxonomic Authority: Moravec, Baha El Din, Seligmann, Sivan and Werner, 1999

Region: 8

Synonyms:

Common Names:

Be'er Sheva Fringe-fingered Lizard English

Order: Sauria

Family: Lacertidae

Notes on taxonomy:

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species is endemic to the Irano-Turanian region of south-central Israel. The map shows the extent of the historic distribution, within which very few fragmented populations remain.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

The species inhabits loess plains with sparse shrub cover. The females may have between three and seven eggs. It is not found in agricultural areas. Animals hide under stones and in holes in the ground, and the species digs burrows under the 'green crust' substrate.

Conservation Measures:

A small portion of the former range of this species is within protected areas. It is protected by national legislation in Israel.

Threats:

Much of the habitat of this species (especially the 'green crust') has been destroyed by intensive agriculture, urbanisation, and trampling by grazing animals. It is relatively easily caught by birds, such as falcons, egrets and shrikes, and the abundance of these predatory birds in the area is increasing with ongoing tree planting.

Species population information:

It used to be common species, but is now very rare because of habitat loss.

Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Israel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FAO Marine Habitats

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced
--	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------	--------------	------------

Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

8.4 Desert - Semi-Desert (no trees present) **Score** 1

Lower Level Habitat Preferences

Score

Major threats

Code	Description of threat	Past	Present	Future
1	Habitat Loss/Degradation (human induced)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1	Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.1	Crops	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.1.3	Agro-industry farming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4	Infrastructure development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4.2	Human settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Changes in native species dynamics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8.2	Predators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Research actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Population numbers and range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Biology and Ecology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Habitat status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Threats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.8	Conservation measures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.9	Trends/Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Habitat and site-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4.1	Identification of new protected areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4.2	Establishment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4.3	Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4.4	Expansion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use **Subsistence** **National** **International** **Other purpose:**

Purpose/type of Use	Subsistence	National	International	Other purpose.	
Primary forms removed from the wild	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50% <25%	<i>Other forms removed from the wild:</i>
Source of specimens in commercial trade	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50% <25%	<i>Other source of specimens:</i>

Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:
Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:
CITES:

Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Critically Endangered (CR) Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria: A2c; B2ab(iii)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Critically Endangered because of a serious population decline, estimated to be more than 80% over the last three generations, inferred from habitat destruction and degradation; and because its Area of Occupancy is less than 10 km², its distribution is severely fragmented, and there is continuing decline in the extent and quality of its habitat.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Date of Assessment: 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Yehudah Werner, Ahmad Mohammed Mousa Disi

Notes on Red listing:

Bibliography

Moravec, J., El Din, S.B., Seligmann, H., Sivan, N. and Werner, Y.L., 1999, Systematics and distribution of the Acanthodactylus pardalis group (Lacertidae) in Egypt and Israel., Zool. Mid. East., , 17:, 21-50, ,
, 2002, , , Red Book of Threatened Species in Israel – Vertebrates., Dolev, A. and Perevelotsky, A., , , Nature and Parks Authority and the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, Jerusalem