

Acanthodactylus mechriguensis

Region: 3

Taxonomic Authority: Nouira and Blanc, 1999

Synonyms:

Common Names:

Order: Sauria

Family: Lacertidae

Notes on taxonomy: This species is closely related to Acanthodactylus pardalis complex.

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This recently described species is known only from four localities on the Sidi Mechig beaches of northern Tunisia. It occurs only at sea level.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It lives in the dune systems with shrub and small dry river beds. The habitat of the species includes the only area of peat bog in Tunisia. The female lays a clutch of four to five eggs.

Conservation Measures:

There are no protected areas within the species' range. There is a need to establish a protected area for this species and other localised endemics in the area of the Sidi Mechig beaches.

Threats:

Local people regularly visit and disturb the beaches where this species is found. There is a new port under construction within the range of the species and the population in Sidi Mechig has already considerably decreased. The development of greenhouse cultivation in the region and the building of a dam has also affected some populations.

Species population information:

It is a locally uncommon species. The two largest populations have declined significantly in the past ten years.

Country Distribution

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

Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

Score

Lower Level Habitat Preferences

Score

10.2 Coastline - Sand, Shingle or Pebble Shores (incl. sand bars, spits, sandy islets, dune systems) 1

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"/>
1.4	Infrastructure development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4.1	Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4.6	Dams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Human disturbance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10.1	Recreation/tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Protected areas	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4.3	Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Utilisation of Species

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

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: B2ab(iii,v)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Critically Endangered because its Area of Occupancy is less than 10km², its distribution is severely fragmented, and there is a continuing decline in the extent and quality of its habitat, and the number of mature individuals.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Date of Assessment: 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Saïd Nouria, Philippe Geniez

Notes on Red listing:

Bibliography

Nouria, S. and Blanc, Ch. P., 1999, Description d'une nouvelle espèce d'acanthodactyle en Tunisie: *Acanthodactylus mechriguensis* n. sp. (Sauria, Reptilia), Atti. Mem. Ente Fauna Siciliana, , , 5(1997-1998), 103-110, ,

Nouria, S. and Blanc, C.P., 2003, Distribution spatiale des Lacertidés (Sauria, Reptilia) en Tunisie; caractéristiques des biotopes et rôle des facteurs écologiques, Ecologia mediterranea, , , 29(1), 71-86, ,