

Acanthodactylus pardalis

Taxonomic Authority: (Lichtenstein, 1823)

Synonyms:

Region: 1

Common Names:

Leopard Fringe-fingered Lizard English

Order: Sauria

Family: Lacertidae

Notes on taxonomy: Records of this species from Israel refer to *Acanthodactylus beershebensis*, and records from Jordan refer to *A. ahmadisii* (Y. Werner pers. comm.). Records from Algeria refer to another species.

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species is restricted to the Mediterranean coastal region of northern Egypt and northeastern Libya (Moravec et al., 1999; S. Baha El Din pers. comm.). This is a lowland species.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It is restricted to semi-arid regions, in steppe with hard clay soils, adjacent to saline coastal areas. The females lay between three and seven eggs.

Conservation Measures:

It may be present in the El Omayed protected area of Egypt, although this needs to be confirmed. National and possibly international legislation is needed to protect the species. Protected areas are needed to conserve the specific habitat-type in which this species exists.

Threats:

It is threatened over much of its range by habitat loss resulting from the intensification of agricultural practices, overgrazing by livestock, development of tourism, quarrying, collection of firewood and use of off-road vehicles. It is now restricted to a few fragments of suitable habitat. This species is commercially collected for the international pet trade (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.).

Species population information:

It has decreased significantly in recent years due to loss of its habitat (W. Böhme pers. comm.). It is now rare and localised (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.)

Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Egypt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	<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
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Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

	Score
3.5 Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	1
4.5 Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	1
8.4 Desert - Semi-Desert (no trees present)	1
10.4 Coastline - Intertidal Mud, Sand or Salt Flats	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.1.3	Agro-industry farming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.4	Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.4.1	Nomadic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Extraction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3.1	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3.3	Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3.3.1	Small-scale subsistence	<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"/>
1.4.3	Tourism/recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1	Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1.1	International level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1.2	National level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2	Implementation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2.1	International level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2.2	National level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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	Harvesting (hunting/gathering)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.6	Uses and harvest levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Cultural/scientific/leisure activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.8	Conservation measures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5.3	Regional/international trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.9	Trends/Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Human disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	Habitat and site-based actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10.1	Recreation/tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10.4	Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.4	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"/>
					5	Species-based actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.3	Sustainable use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.3.1	Harvest management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.3.2	Trade management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use		Subsistence	National	International	Other purpose:	
13. Pets/display animals, horticulture		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Primary forms removed from the wild	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50%	<25%	Other forms removed from the wild:
1. Whole animal/plant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Source of specimens in commercial trade	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50%	<25%	Other source of specimens:
Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:	Decreasing					
Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:						
CITES:	Not listed					

Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Vulnerable (VU)

Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria: A2c; B1ab(i,ii,iii)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Vulnerable because of a serious population decline, estimated to be more than 30% over the last three generations, inferred from observed shrinkage in distribution and habitat destruction and/or degradation. The species has an Extent of Occurrence of less than 20,000 km², with few fragmented populations present in the Egyptian part of its range.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Date of Assessment: 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Wolfgang Böhme and Sherif Baha El Din

Notes on Red listing: The population of this species in Egypt has significantly declined (possibly by 80%) since the 1970s, and it is now known only from a few localities. However the status of populations in Libya is unclear, and it is difficult to determine what percentage the global population has declined by. It has almost certainly declined by 30%, but it is uncertain if it has declined by 50% or more over the last 10 years or three generations. If the species has recently declined in Libya to the extent that it has in Egypt, then the species will qualify for Endangered or possibly Critically Endangered. Further studies are urgently needed for this species.

Bibliography

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