

Blanus mettetalii

Region: 7

Taxonomic Authority: Bons, 1963

Synonyms:

Common Names:

Moroccan Worm Lizard English
Amphisbène cendré du Maroc French

Order: Amphisbaenia

Family: Amphisbaenidae

Notes on taxonomy: This is considered to be a valid species (Busack 1988, Schleich et al. 1996).

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species is endemic to Morocco where it is found on the Atlantic plains north of the Souss Valley, and on the north slope of the Moyen and Haut Atlas. It occurs up to 2,092 m asl.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

This species is generally found in moist, sandy soil under stones. It occurs in woodland, shrubland and in traditionally cultivated land. The females lay a single egg, possibly every year.

Conservation Measures:

It is known from certain protected areas in Morocco, including the Dunes d'Essaouira, Jbel Tichoukt, and Jaaba.

Threats:

The threats to this species are not well known. It may be threatened by intensification of agricultural practices in parts of its range. It is eaten by Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), but this is unlikely to constitute a serious threat.

Species population information:

It is not found often, but it is thought to be common to abundant where it is found.

Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Morocco	<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

	Score
1.4 Forest - Temperate	1
3.4 Shrubland - Temperate	1
3.8 Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1
11.1 Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	1
11.2 Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	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"/>

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"/>
3.5	Threats	<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 type="checkbox"/>
4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.2	Establishment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.3	Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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%
Source of specimens in commercial trade	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50% <25%

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:

Trend in occurrence/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:

CITES:

Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria:

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Least Concern in view of its wide distribution, presumed large population, and because it is unlikely to be declining fast enough to qualify for listing in a more threatened category.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Date of Assessment: 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Jose Antonio Mateo Miras, Ulrich Joger, Juan Pleguezuelos, Tahar Slimani

Notes on Red listing:

Bibliography

Busack, S.D., 1988, Biochemical and morphological differentiation in Spanish and Moroccan populations of *Blanus* and the description of a new species from northern Morocco (Reptilia, Amphisbaenia, Amphisbaenidae), *Copeia*, , 1988:, 101-109, ,

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Schleich, H.H., Kästle, W. and Kabisch, K., 1996, , *Amphibians and Reptiles of North Africa.*, , 627 pp., Koeltz., Koenigstein.

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Gans, C., 1967, A check list of recent amphisbaenians (*Amphisbaenia*, Reptilia), *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, , 135, 61-106., ,