

Blanus tingitanus

Region: 7

Taxonomic Authority: Busack, 1988

Synonyms:

Common Names:

Culebrilla Ciega de Tánger Spanish

Amphisbène cendré du nord du Ma 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 and Ceuta (Spain). It is restricted to the Tingitana Peninsula, the Zebú River basin and the western half of the Rif. It is thought to extend to the edge of the Middle Atlas Mountains. It reaches an altitude of 1,500 m asl.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

This is a fossorial species that is found in relatively humid soils containing humus. It can be found in woodland, scrub and traditionally cultivated areas. It is an egg laying species, but the size of the clutch is not known.

Conservation Measures:

It is known to exist in some Moroccan protected areas, notably Jbel Moussa, Tidighine, Marais Larache, Perdicaris, Bouhachem, Jbel Tizirène, Koudiat Tidighine, Lalla Outka, Bou Iblane, and Bou Naceur.

Threats:

It is threatened in local situations by habitat loss through intensification of agriculture and soil erosion. It might be disturbed locally by wild boar, although this is unlikely to constitute a serious threat.

Species population information:

The species is locally abundant in parts of its range.

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"/>
Spain	<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
1.4 Forest - 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"/>
1.1.1.2	Small-holder farming	<input checked="" 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"/>
1.1.4.2	Small-holder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
3	Research actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Population numbers and range	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Biology and Ecology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Habitat status	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 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: Least Concern (LC)

Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria:

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Least Concern since, although its currently known Extent of Occurrence is not much greater than 20,000 km², it occurs in an area of extensive, suitable habitat which appears not to be under very serious threat, it has a presumed large population, and 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 Jogger, Juan Pleguezuelos, Tahar Slimani

Notes on Red listing:

Bibliography

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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, ,

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., ,