

Chalcides mertensi

Taxonomic Authority: Klausewitz, 1954

Synonyms:

Region: 7

Common Names:

Seps tridactyle de l'Algerie French
Algerian three-toed skink English

Order: Sauria

Family: Scincidae

Notes on taxonomy: This taxon was formerly treated as a subspecies of Chalcides chalcides, but it was raised to species status by Caputo (1993).

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species occurs in the Mediterranean regions of northern Tunisia and northern Algeria. It is known from sea level up to 1.500m asl.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It lives in forested areas in northern Algeria, and in semi-arid Mediterranean habitats in Algeria and Tunisia. It is found in damp, sunny areas with dense vegetation. Habitats include, grassland, meadows, areas close to streams, hedges, open cork oak forest, and the edges of cultivated areas. It is also known from grassland prairies with a high cover of herbaceous grasses. The females give birth to formed young.

Conservation Measures:

It occurs in protected areas in Algeria (Djurdjura National Park). It is not present in any protected areas in Tunisia.

Threats:

It is threatened by habitat loss from overgrazing by livestock, and through conversion of land to agricultural and urban use.

Species population information:

It is rare in Tunisia, but possibly more common in Algeria. However, not much is known about this species.

Country Distribution

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

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

Score

Lower Level Habitat Preferences

Score

1.4 Forest - Temperate	2
3.4 Shrubland - Temperate	1
3.8 Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1
4.4 Grassland - Temperate	1
5.2 Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks	2

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"/>
1.1.4	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"/>
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"/>

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"/>
4	Habitat and site-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.1	Identification of new protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.2	Establishment	<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 in view of its relatively 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, El Hassan El Mouden, Philippe Geniez

Notes on Red listing:

Bibliography

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Caputo, V., 1993, Taxonomy and evolution of the Chalcides chalcides complex (Reptilia, Scincidae) with description of two new species., Museo Regionale de Scienze Naturali Bollettino (Turin), , , 11(1):, 47-120, ,

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