

Hierophis gemonensis

Region: 8

Taxonomic Authority: (Laurenti, 1768)

Synonyms:

Common Names:

Balkan Whip Snake English
Balkan-Zornatter German

Order: Ophidia

Family: Colubridae

Notes on taxonomy: This species was formerly included in the genus Coluber, but is included here in Hierophis following Schätti and Utiger (2001) and Nagy et al. (2004).

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species ranges from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro (Montenegro only), Albania (mostly lowlands) and western and southern Greece. It is present on a number of islands in the Adriatic Sea, and is present on both the Ionian Islands and the islands of Euboa, Kythera, Crete (and adjacent islets) and Karpathos of Greece. The species may be present in extreme northeastern Italy, although records from this area need to be confirmed (Claudia Corti pers. comm.). This species ranges from sea level to 1,400 m asl.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

This species occurs in dry, stony areas, scrubland, macchia, open woodland, vineyards, olive groves, generally overgrown areas, rural gardens and ruins. The females lay clutches of four to 10 eggs.

Conservation Measures:

It is listed on Annex III of the Bern Convention, and is present in many protected areas. No further conservation measures are immediately needed for this species.

Threats:

It is locally threatened in parts of its range by habitat loss to agricultural intensification, fire and pollution. However, in general there appear to be no major threats to this species.

Species population information:

It can be very common. It is considered to be declining in Albania.

Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Albania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Italy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serbia and Montenegro	<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
3.8 Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1
11.2 Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	1
11.3 Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	1
11.4 Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	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"/>
5	Persecution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1	Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1.1	International level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2	Implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2.1	International level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Research actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6.2	Land pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.2	Population numbers and range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.2.1	Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
					4.4.2	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% <i>Other forms removed from the wild:</i>
Source of specimens in commercial trade	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50% <25% <i>Other source of specimens:</i>

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 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: Stable

Date of Assessment: 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Petros Lymberakis, Rastko Ajtic

Notes on Red listing:

Bibliography

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