

Macroprotodon brevis

Region: 7

Taxonomic Authority: (Günther, 1826)

Synonyms:

Common Names:

False Smooth Snake English

Order: Ophidia

Family: Colubridae

Notes on taxonomy: Morphological data (Wade, 2001) and genetic data (Carranza et al. 2004) show that this species is distinct from Macroprotodon cucullatus.

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species is present in much of Morocco, parts of northwestern Algeria, southern and eastern Portugal, and southern Spain, with apparently isolated populations in Western Sahara. It occurs from sea level to 2500m.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It is found only in relatively undisturbed habitats such as evergreen temperate forests and scrublands. It lays 5-7 eggs every two years.

Conservation Measures:

It occurs in a number of protected areas. It is unclear as to whether this species is listed on the Bern Convention is unknown.

Threats:

It is threatened by habitat loss, largely through the intensification of agricultural methods, throughout its range. It is persecuted and may be more threatened than some other snakes because it looks similar to some viper species.

Species population information:

This species is not believed to be so common in Spain or Portugal, however it is a cryptic, nocturnal species that is sometimes difficult to find.

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"/>
Morocco	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Portugal	<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"/>
Western Sahara	<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
3.8	Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1
6	Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	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"/>
1.1.1.3	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"/>

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1	Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1.2	National level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Communication and Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Research actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1	Taxonomy	<input checked="" 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"/>
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"/>
4.4.3	Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4.4	Expansion	<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: Near Threatened (NT) Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria:

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Near Threatened because this species is probably in significant decline (but probably at a rate of less than 30% over ten years) because of widespread habitat loss through much of its range, thus making the species close to qualifying for Vulnerable.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Date of Assessment: 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Ulrich Joger, Paulo Sá-Sousa

Notes on Red listing:

Bibliography

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