

Macroprotodon cucullatus

Taxonomic Authority: Geoffroy de St-Hilaire, 1827

Synonyms:

Region: 3

Common Names:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| False Smooth Snake | English |
| Kapuzennatter | German |
| culebra de cogulla | Spanish |
| colubro dal cappuccio | Italian |

Order: Ophidia

Family: Colubridae

Notes on taxonomy: This may be a species complex (see Carranza et al. (2004), Wade (2001) and Crochet and Dubois (2004) for more details). For some authors the populations of northern Algeria and Tunisia (and the introduced populations of Mallorca and Menorca) are considered to be *Macroprotodon mauritanicus* (V. Pérez Mellado, pers. comm.). However, recent genetic data indicates that *M. mauritanicus* may belong to the same species as *M. cucullatus*.

General Information

Biome

Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species ranges through northern Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt to southern Israel. In Europe, it is present only on the island of Lampedusa, Italy, although it also occurs in Menorca and Majorca where the species has been introduced. It is a lowland species found from sea level up to 2,500m asl (Morocco).

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It is found in open, sandy deciduous and evergreen woodland, scrubland, sandy areas, oasis, meadows, plantations, cultivated land and on stone walls and ruins. The females lay two to six eggs and breed every two years.

Conservation Measures:

It is present in a few protected areas. On Lampedusa, populations of this species require some protection. In Egypt, there is a need to develop national legislation to protect this species and to create new protected areas. Further studies to resolve the taxonomy of this species are needed.

Threats:

Although the species does not appear to be globally threatened, it is locally threatened by habitat degradation, including changes in agricultural practices (general intensification). Deforestation on the island of Lampedusa is a major threat, as is the expansion of tourism and accidental mortality on roads. In Egypt it is threatened by commercial collection for the international pet trade, urbanisation and development of tourism, overgrazing, collection of firewood and quarrying.

Species population information:

It can be a common species in suitable habitat. In Egypt it is a rare and declining 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"/> |
| Egypt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Israel | <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"/> |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Spain | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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

Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

Score

Lower Level Habitat Preferences

Score

| | |
|--|---|
| 1.4 Forest - Temperate | 1 |
| 3.4 Shrubland - Temperate | 1 |
| 3.8 Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation | 1 |
| 5.9 Wetlands (inland) - Freshwater Springs and Oases | 1 |
| 6 Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks) | 1 |
| 8.4 Desert - Semi-Desert (no trees present) | 2 |
| 10.2 Coastline - Sand, Shingle or Pebble Shores (incl. sand bars, spits, sandy islets, dune systems) | 2 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 11.1 Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land | 1 |
| 11.2 Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland | 2 |
| 11.3 Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations | 1 |
| 11.4 Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens | 2 |
| 11.5 Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas | 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"/> |
| 1.1.4.1 | Nomadic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.3 | Extraction | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.3.1 | Mining | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.4 | Infrastructure development | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.4.2 | Human settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.4.3 | Tourism/recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Harvesting (hunting/gathering) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.5 | Cultural/scientific/leisure activities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.5.3 | Regional/international trade | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Accidental mortality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.2 | Collision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.2.2 | Vehicle collision | <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 type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.2 | Legislation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.2.1 | Development | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.2.1.2 | National level | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.2.2 | Implementation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.2.2.2 | National level | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.5 | Threats | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.6 | Uses and harvest levels | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.4 | Protected areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.4.1 | Identification of new protected areas | <input 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"/> |
| 5 | Species-based actions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.3 | Sustainable use | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.3.1 | Harvest management | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.3.2 | Trade management | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Utilisation of Species

| Purpose/Type of Use | Subsistence | National | International | Other purpose: | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 13. Pets/display animals, horticulture | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| Primary forms removed from the wild | 100% | >75% | 51-75% | 26-50% | <25% | Other forms removed from the wild: |
| 1. Whole animal/plant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Source of specimens in commercial trade | 100% | >75% | 51-75% | 26-50% | <25% | Other source of specimens: |
| Wild | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years: | | | | | | Stable |
| Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years: | | | | | | |
| CITES: | Not listed | | | | | |

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, tolerance of a degree of habitat modification, 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: Decreasing

Date of Assessment: 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Claudia Corti, Valentin Pérez Mellado, Philippe Geniez, Sherif Baha El Din

Notes on Red listing: In Egypt this species is significantly threatened and is considered to be Vulnerable (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.).

Bibliography

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