

# Montivipera xanthina

Region: 8

Taxonomic Authority: (Gray, 1849)

### Synonyms:

Vipera bulgardaghica Nilson and Andren, 1985

### Common Names:

Ottoman Viper English

Order: Ophidia

Family: Viperidae

Notes on taxonomy: This species is included in Montivipera following Nilson et al. (1999) and Lenk et al. (2001). The taxonomic status of Vipera bulgardaghica needs further study as this may be confirmed as a separate species.

## General Information

Biome  Terrestrial  Freshwater  Marine

### Geographic Range of species:

This species is found in northeastern Greece and in Turkey (western, southern and central Anatolia). In Greece it is also present on the islands of Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Patmos, Leipsoi, Leros, Kalymnos, Kos, Symi, Chalki and Oenousses. It ranges from sea level up to 2,500 m asl.

### Habitat and Ecology Information:

This species is found in Mediterranean scrubland and mountain steppe habitats. It can be found in rural gardens, cultivated land, olive groves and among ruins. The females give birth to between two and 15 young.

### Conservation Measures:

This species is listed on Annex II of the Bern Convention. It is present in many protected areas in southeast Anatolia, Turkey and in Greece as well. No further conservation measures are needed.

### Threats:

A number populations in western Anatolia, Turkey, appear to be threatened by overcollection for the pet trade. There is some illegal export of this species from Turkey. There is some localised persecution of this species when it is encountered.

### Species population information:

It can be common in upland areas.

## Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Greece	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<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
3.8 Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1
4.4 Grassland - Temperate	1
11.1 Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	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
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"/>
3.5.2	Sub-national/national trade	<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"/>
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 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"/>
3.2	Population numbers and range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Threats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Uses and harvest levels	<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 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

<b>Purpose/Type of Use</b>		<b>Subsistence</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>International</b>	<b>Other purpose:</b>	
13. Pets/display animals, horticulture		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Primary forms removed from the wild</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>&gt;75%</b>	<b>51-75%</b>	<b>26-50%</b>	<b>&lt;25%</b>	<b>Other forms removed from the wild:</b>
1. Whole animal/plant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Source of specimens in commercial trade</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>&gt;75%</b>	<b>51-75%</b>	<b>26-50%</b>	<b>&lt;25%</b>	<b>Other source of specimens:</b>
Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:</b>					Unknown	
<b>Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:</b>					Unknown	
<b>CITES:</b>	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, 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):** Wolfgang Böhme, Petros Lymberakis, Varol Tok, Ishmail Ugurtas, Murat Sevinç, Pierre-André Crochet

**Notes on Red listing:** This species is being overharvested in Turkey and might soon qualify for Near Threatened. The population of this species, often called *Vipera bulghardaghica*, from a single location in the eastern Taurus Mountains is considered to be of conservation concern.

### Bibliography

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