

Ophisops occidentalis

Taxonomic Authority: Boulenger, 1887

Synonyms:

Order: Sauria

Notes on taxonomy:

Region: 7

Common Names:

Western Snake-eyed Lizard English

Family: Lacertidae

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This North African species ranges from extreme northeastern Morocco, through northern Algeria and northern and central Tunisia, to northern Libya to northwestern Egypt (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.). It is found up to 1,500m asl.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

This species is found in areas of open, solid ground with a covering of grasses, and also in scrubland and in steppe. It can be found in traditionally managed fields. It is not found on rock faces or in areas of mobile sands. In Egypt, it is confined to a very narrow habitat along lightly vegetated calcareous ridges extending parallel to the Mediterranean coast (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.). The females lay three or four eggs.

Conservation Measures:

It is known from protected areas in Tunisia and may be present in other protected areas in its range. In Egypt, it is present in the proposed Salum protected area on the Libyan border. Further research is needed to clarify the distribution of this species (eg. in Libya), and to establish the relationship between this species and O. elegans (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.).

Threats:

In the western part of its range there are no known threats to this species; it could perhaps be threatened by expanding agriculture, but this is considered to be unlikely. In Egypt, it is highly threatened by limestone quarrying, tourism resort expansion, agricultural expansion, overgrazing and collection of firewood. In Egypt, as much as 50% of suitable habitat has been lost in the last ten years.

Species population information:

It is a common species in most parts of its range. It is very rare on the edge of its range in Morocco. In Egypt it is a rare and declining species.

	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"/>
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	<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"/>
Tunisia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced
FAO Marine Habitats					

Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences		Score	Lower Level Habitat Preferences		Score
1.4	Forest - Temperate	1			
3.8	Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1			
4.5	Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	1			
6	Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.1.3	Agro-industry farming	<input 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 checked="" 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"/>

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
3	Research actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1	Taxonomy	<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"/>
3.5	Threats	<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"/>

1.3.3	Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3.3.1	Small-scale subsistence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.4	Protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4	Infrastructure development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.4.1	Identification of new protected areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4.2	Human settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.4.2	Establishment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4.3	Tourism/recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4.4.3	Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
6.1	Atmospheric pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
6.1.1	Global warming/oceanic warming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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, tolerance of a degree of habitat modification, presumed large population in the west of its range, 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): M. Saïd Noura, Philippe Geniez, Sherif Baha El Din

Notes on Red listing: In the eastern part of its range (Egypt and eastern Libya) the species is at the edge of its distribution and is significantly threatened by habitat loss. It is considered to be a very threatened species in Egypt (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.).

Bibliography

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