

Philochortus zolii

Taxonomic Authority: Scortecci, 1934

Synonyms:

Region: 1

Common Names:

Order: Sauria

Family: Lacertidae

Notes on taxonomy: The taxonomy of this species, and other Philochortus species, needs to be reviewed (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.).

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This relic species is present in Libya where it is known only from two localities, the Oasis of Elbarkat (Al Barkat) 8km south of Ghat, Fezzan and from near to Ajedabia, in western Cyrenaica, and in Egypt where it is known from Wadi El Natrun (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.). Animals in Egypt have previously been misidentified as belonging to P. intermedius (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.). It is found at sea level and below.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It is found in semi-desert on the edge of oasis, where it is confined to areas with Halfa grasses on sandy soil. The species is not believed to be adaptable to cultivated land. It is an egg-laying species.

Conservation Measures:

It is not present in any protected areas. Research is urgently needed into the taxonomy, range, ecology and biology of this species. This species could benefit from ex-situ conservation measures to prevent the extinction of the species while in-situ conservation measures are developed (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.). There is a need to create protected areas to protect the species and to develop community based action to conserve the species habitat.

Threats:

It is a highly localised relict species. In Egypt it is highly endangered if not extinct, the area of occurrence is a less than 5 km2. It is threatened by habitat loss through land reclamation for agriculture and overgrazing. There is some collection for the pet trade or for scientific research.

Species population information:

It is a very rare species occurring in small populations.

Country Distribution	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
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"/>

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
4.5 Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	1		
5.9 Wetlands (inland) - Freshwater Springs and Oases	1		

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"/>
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"/>
6	Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.1	Atmospheric pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.1.1	Global warming/oceanic warming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Natural disasters	<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"/>
1.2.1.1	International level	<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"/>
1.2.2.1	International level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2.2	National level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Community management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3.2	Resource stewardship	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

7.1	Drought	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.1	Taxonomy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Intrinsic factors	<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"/>
9.1	Limited dispersal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.3	Biology and Ecology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9.9	Restricted range	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3.4	Habitat status	<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"/>
					3.8	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					4.2	Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					4.4	Protected areas	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					4.4.3	Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					4.5	Community-based initiatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5	Species-based actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.1	Re-introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.7	Ex situ conservation actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.7.1	Captive breeding/Artificial propagation	<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"/>		
14. Research		<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:	Decreasing					
Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:						
CITES:	Not listed					

Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Critically Endangered (CR) Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria: B1ab(iii)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Critically Endangered because its Extent of Occurrence is presumably less than 100 km², its distribution is severely fragmented, and there is a rapid continuing decline in the extent and quality of its habitat in Egypt and presumably in Libya.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing **Date of Assessment:** 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Wolfgang Böhme and Sherif Baha El Din

Notes on Red listing:

Bibliography

Scortecci, G., 1934, Descrizione preliminare di una nuova specie del genere *Philochortus* (*Philochortus zolii*) della zona di Gat (Missione della reale Societa Geografica)., *Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Naturale*, , 73:, 305-308, ,

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