

Sphenops sepioides

Region: 1

Taxonomic Authority: (Audouin, 1829)

Synonyms:

Sphenops boulengeri (Anderson, 1896)

Common Names:

Wedge-snouted Skink English

Order: Sauria

Family: Scincidae

Notes on taxonomy:

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species ranges from Libya and Egypt (including northern Sinai) east to coastal Israel and the western Negev. There is an isolated population in the Wadi Arabah of southeastern Israel and southwestern Jordan. It is a lowland species.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

This species is found in sandy areas and dunes. It can be found in open steppe habitat and bushland with sandy soil, and has been observed close to oases. It swims in the sand below the surface. It is a viviparous species. It is nocturnal in the summer and diurnal in the winter.

Conservation Measures:

It occurs in some protected areas. Further research is needed into the distribution of this species.

Threats:

In general there appear to be no major threats to this widespread species. In Egypt it is threatened by commercial collection, overgrazing of vegetation by livestock and conversion of habitat to agricultural land.

Species population information:

It is a common species.

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"/>
Israel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jordan	<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
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Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

	Score
3.5 Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	1
4.5 Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	1
5.9 Wetlands (inland) - Freshwater Springs and Oases	1
8.1 Desert - Hot	1
8.4 Desert - Semi-Desert (no trees present)	1
10.2 Coastline - Sand, Shingle or Pebble Shores (incl. sand bars, spits, sandy islets, dune systems)	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 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"/>

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"/>
3.4	Habitat status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Threats	<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"/>
4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<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****Purpose/Type of Use**

13. Pets/display animals, horticulture

Subsistence



National



International

**Other purpose:****Primary forms removed from the wild**

100%

>75%

51-75%

26-50%

<25%

Other forms removed from the wild:

1. Whole animal/plant

**Source of specimens in commercial trade**

100%

>75%

51-75%

26-50%

<25%

Other source of specimens:

Wild

**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, 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:** Stable**Date of Assessment:** 12/17/2004**Assessor(s):** Ahmad Mohammed Mousa Disi, Yehudah Werner, Sherif Baha El Din**Notes on Red listing:****Bibliography**

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