

Tarentola mauritanica

Taxonomic Authority: (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonyms:

Region: 3

Common Names:

Moorish Gecko	English
Common Wall Gecko	English
Mauergecko	German
Salamanquesa Común	Spanish
geco comune	Italian
Osga	Portuguese

Order: Sauria

Family: Gekkonidae

Notes on taxonomy: Genetic analyses suggest that the subspecies *Tarentola mauritanica fascicularis* is probably a valid species (Harris et al. 2004), but no formal taxonomic proposal has yet been made (Crochet and Dubois 2004). *Tarentola mauritanica* appears to be a species complex, with animals in northwestern Libya and southern Tunisia possibly representing a separate species (S. Baha El Din pers. comm.).

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species ranges throughout much of the Mediterranean region. Mainland European populations are distributed from Portugal (except the northwest), Spain (absent from most of the north), and southern France, throughout mainly coastal areas of Italy, southern Slovenia, northern coastal Croatia and southwestern parts of Greece. In northern Africa the species ranges from northern Egypt, through northern Libya, northern and central Tunisia, and northern Algeria to most of Morocco and northwestern Western Sahara. There is an isolated introduced population in southern Western Sahara. It is present on many Mediterranean islands including Corsica (France), Sardinia, Sicily, Pantellaria and Lampedusa (all in Italy), the Ionian Islands and Crete (all in Greece). Many of the populations in the northern Mediterranean are likely to have been introduced in ancient times. It has been introduced to a number of areas including the Balearic Islands and Tenerife (Spain), the island of Madeira (Portugal), Montevideo (Uruguay), Buenos Aires (Argentina) and California (United States). It is found from sea level up to as high as 2,300m asl (in Spain).

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It is found in a variety of habitats, and it has been recorded from rocky areas, cliffs, stone walls, ruins, building walls and inside houses. It is generally not present in forested areas although animals can often be found climbing in trees. The females lay clutches of one to two eggs. These may be laid communally, typically under stones, in cracks and in hollow trees.

Conservation Measures:

It is protected by international legislation over parts of its range, and it occurs in many protected areas. Further studies into the impact of commercial trade on this species in Egypt is needed. Further taxonomic studies are needed for this species.

Threats:

There appear to be no major threats to this species. Populations in Egypt are threatened by overcollection for the pet trade and by habitat degradation.

Species population information:

It is sometimes a very common species. Populations may be expanding with increasing urbanisation.

<u>Country Distribution</u>	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"/>
Argentina	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Croatia	<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"/>
France	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Greece	<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"/>
Monaco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
Portugal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slovenia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spain	<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"/>
United States of America	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uruguay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western Sahara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Native - Presence Confirmed Native - Presence Possible Extinct Reintroduced Introduced

FAO Marine Habitats

Major Lakes

Major Rivers

<u>Upper Level Habitat Preferences</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Lower Level Habitat Preferences</u>	<u>Score</u>
3.4 Shrubland - Temperate	1		
3.8 Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1		
6 Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	1		
10.1 Coastline - Rocky Shores (includes rocky offshore islands and sea cliffs)	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		
11.5 Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	1		

Major threats

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description of threat</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Future</u>
13	None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Conservation Measures

<u>Code</u>	<u>Conservation measures</u>	<u>In place</u>	<u>Needed</u>
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"/>
3.1	Taxonomy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Uses and harvest levels	<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"/>
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

<u>Purpose/Type of Use</u>	<u>Subsistence</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>International</u>	<u>Other purpose:</u>
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%
1. Whole animal/plant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Source of specimens in commercial trade	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50%
Wild	<input checked="" 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 broad range of habitats, 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): Milan Voarin. Claudia Corti. Valentin Pérez Mellado. Paulo Sá-Sousa. Marc Chevlan. Juan Plequezuelos. Sherif Baha El Din

Notes on Red listing:

Bibliography

- Pleguezuelos, J.M., Márquez, R. and Lizana, M., 2002, Atlas y Libro Rojo de los Anfibios y Reptiles de España., pp. 584, Dirección General de la Conservación de la naturaleza-Asociación Herpetológica Española., Madrid.
- Arnold, E.N., 2003, Reptiles and amphibians of Europe., 288 pp., Princeton University Press., Princeton and Oxford.
- Joger, U., 1984, Taxonomische Revision der Gattung Tarentola (Reptilia: Gekkonidae), Bonner Zoologische Beitrage, 35(1-3):, 129-174, Schleich, H.H., Kästle, W. and Kabisch, K., 1996, Amphibians and Reptiles of North Africa., 627 pp., Koeltz., Koenigstein.
- Harris, D.J., Batista, V., Lymberakis, P. and Carretero, M.A., 2004, Complex estimates of evolutionary relationships in Tarentola mauritanica (Reptilia: Gekkonidae) derived from mitochondrial DNA sequences., Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, 30(3), 855-859, Nogales M., López, M., Jiménez-Asensio, J., Larruga, J.M., Hernández, M. and González, P., 1998, Evolution and biogeography of the genus Tarentola (Sauria: Gekkonidae) in the Canary Islands, inferred from mitochondrial DNA sequences., J. Evol. Biol., 11:, 481-494, Carranza, S., Arnold, E.N., Mateo, J.A. and López-Jurado, L.F., 2000, Long-distance colonization and radiation in gekkonid lizards, Tarentola (Reptilia: Gekkonidae), revealed by mitochondrial DNA sequences., Proc. R. Soc. London B, 267:, 637-649, Gasc, J.-P., Cabela, A., Crnobrnja-Isailovic, J., Dolmen, D., Grossenbacher, K., Haffner, P., Lescure, J., Martens, H., Martínez-Rica, J.P., Maurin, H., Oliveira, M.E., Sofianidou, T.S., Veith, M. and Zuiderwijk, A., 1997, Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Europe., pp. 494, Societas Europaea Herpetologica and Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris
- Geniez, P., Mateo, J.-A. and Bons, J., 2000, A checklist of the amphibians and reptiles of Western Sahara (Amphibia, Reptilia), Herpetozoa, 13(3/4):, 149-163, Bons, J. and Geniez, P., 1996, Amphibiens et Reptiles du Maroc (Sahara Occidental compris), Atlas biogéographique., 320 pp., Asoc. Herpetol. Espanola., Barcelona
- Flower, S., 1933, Notes on the recent reptiles and amphibians of Egypt, with a list of the species recorded from that kingdom., Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1933:, 735-851, Martens, H., 1997, A review of "Zoogeography of amphibians and reptiles of Syria, with additional new records" (Herpetozoa 9 (1/2), 1996), Herpetozoa, 10 (3/4):, 99-106, Malkmus, R., 2004, Amphibians and reptiles of Portugal, Madeira and the Azores-archipelago., A.R.G. Gantner Verlag K.G., Ruggell (Germany)
- Crochet, P.-A. and Dubois, A., 2004, Recent changes in the taxonomy of European amphibians and reptiles., Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles in Europe. Re-edition., Gasc, J.-P., Cabela, A., Crnobrnja-Isailovic, J., Dolmen, D., Grossenbacher, K., Haffner, P., Lescure, J., Martens, H., Martínez Rica, J.P., Maurin, H., Oliveira, M.E., Sofianidou, T.S., Veith, M., Zuiderwijk, A., Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris
- Baha El Din, S., 2001, The herpetofauna of Egypt: species, communities and assemblages., Phd unpublished, University of Nottingham School of Biological Sciences, Nottingham, UK
- Saleh, M.A., 1997, Amphibians and Reptiles of Egypt., 6., pp. 283, Publication of the National Biodiversity Unit, Cairo
- Andreu, A., Bea, A., Braña, F., Galán, P., López-Jurado, L.F., Pérez-Mellado, V., Pleguezuelos, J.M. and Salvador, A., 1998, Reptiles., Fauna Ibérica, 10, 1-705, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales. CSIC., Madrid