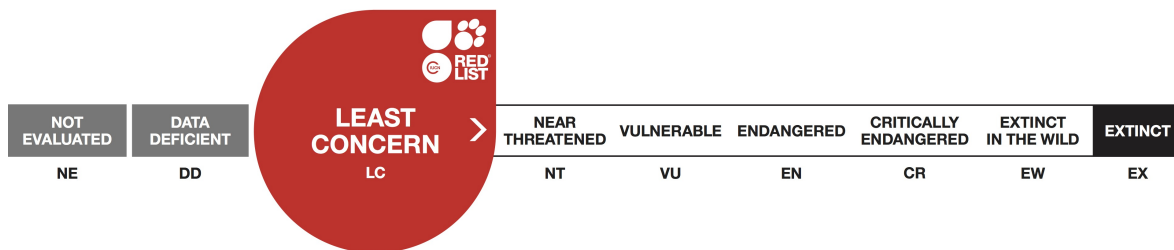


## *Dinarolacerta montenegrina*, Prokletije Rock Lizard

Assessment by: Crnobrnja-Isailovic, J. & Bowles, P.



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## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Lacertidae

**Taxon Name:** *Dinarolacerta montenegrina* Ljubisavljević, Arribas, Džukić & Carranza, 2007

### Common Name(s):

- English: Prokletije Rock Lizard

### Taxonomic Notes:

This species represents an isolated population originally assigned to the Mosor rock lizard, *Lacerta* (now *Dinarolacerta*) *mosorensis* (Ljubisavljević *et al.* 2007). The specific identity of a recently-discovered Albanian population of “*D. mosorensis*” not included in genetic analysis is unclear, but may represent this species (Ljubisavljević *et al.* 2007).

## Assessment Information

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

**Year Published:** 2011

**Date Assessed:** April 7, 2011

### Justification:

Listed as Least Concern on the basis that, despite having a small range, this species is apparently abundant with no evidence of decline in its extent of occurrence or in the extent and quality of its habitat, and it is apparently not subject to any major threats.

## Geographic Range

### Range Description:

The Prokletije Rock Lizard appears to be endemic to the Prokletije mountain massif in Montenegro where it is thought to occur along the humid southern slope (J. Crnobrnja-Isailovic pers. comm. April 2011), although it may range into the Bridash Mountains along the Albanian flank of this massif, some 25 km south of the type locality (Petrov 2006, Ljubisavljević *et al.* 2007). Genetic analysis indicates that this population is clearly distinct from rock lizards elsewhere in the Balkans (Ljubisavljević *et al.* 2007). It is therefore likely to have a genuinely restricted distribution, although the limits of this range are not well-known, and it may be found elsewhere in the Dinaric Alps where suitable habitat is present (Ljubisavljević *et al.* 2007). It has been reported from 1,550 to 1,600 m asl. in Montenegro (Ljubisavljević *et al.* 2007). Biogeographic comparisons with other preglacial relict species in the region suggest that this lizard may never have been more widespread than its current distribution implies, with the Morača river canyon acting as a natural barrier to dispersal (Ljubisavljević *et al.* 2007).

### Country Occurrence:

**Native:** Montenegro

## Population

This lizard occurs in “dense populations” on cliffs on the northeastern slope of Debeza Mountain (Ljubisavljević *et al.* 2007). Collection dates for known specimens range from 1996 to 2005, but no information on population trends is available (J. Crnobrnja-Isailovic pers. comm. April 2011). Although it is likely that this species has a fragmented distribution limited by the availability of rocky habitat within a matrix of pastureland (J. Crnobrnja-Isailovic pers. comm. March 2009), as this is a natural consequence of its specific microhabitat requirements it is unclear whether the population is severely fragmented and it is unknown whether this species can disperse between patches through the intervening grassland.

**Current Population Trend:** Unknown

## Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This high-montane lizard has been recorded from debris fields and large rock outcrops on Debeza Mountain, both on and beneath cliffs, where it is associated with glacial lakes within cirques (Ljubisavljević *et al.* 2007). It is confined to rocky areas, with a preference for moist habitats (J. Crnobrnja-Isailovic pers. comm. April 2011). The vegetation at the type locality is characterized by open Heldreich’s pine forest described as containing “Mediterranean floristic elements” (Ljubisavljević *et al.* 2007). Its life history is unknown, but females of this presumed egg-laying lizard were found to be gravid at the start of June, suggesting that reproduction may take place in May (Džukić *et al.* 1997). At elevations of up to 1,660 m, the lizard occurs alongside the Common Wall Lizard (*Podarcis muralis*).

**Systems:** Terrestrial

## Use and Trade (see Appendix for additional information)

While there may be or have been a low level of collection for research purposes and natural history collections, this lizard is not thought likely to be attractive to commercial collectors and there is no known use or trade (J. Crnobrnja-Isailovic pers. comm. May 2011).

## Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Although the known Montenegro site is accessible by car and lizards may be subject to low levels of collection (J. Crnobrnja-Isailovic pers. comm. March 2009), there are no known threats to the area or the species’ habitat. As a high-montane specialist which is associated with humid areas, this lizard might be at some risk from future climate change if this results in its habitat becoming too hot or dry for its persistence (J. Crnobrnja-Isailovic pers. comm. April 2011).

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

The Montenegrin portion of the Prokletije massif was gazetted as a national park (Prokletije National Park) in 2009. Research is needed to clarify the specific identity of the Albanian population, and information is needed on life history, population trends and any threats to which this lizard may be exposed.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** Crnobrnja-Isailovic, J. & Bowles, P.

**Reviewer(s):** Böhm, M. & Cox, N.A.

## Bibliography

Dzukic, G., Djorovic, A., Kalezic, M.L., Aleksic, I. and Crnobrnja-Isailovic, J. 1997. The Mosor Lizard occurs also in the Prokletije Mountain Massif. *Univ. Thought. Nat. Sci.* 3(2): 61-62.

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## External Resources

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the Red List website.

## Appendix

### Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	-	Suitable	-
0. Root -> 6. Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	-	Suitable	-

### Use and Trade

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

End Use	Local	National	International
Research	No	Yes	Yes

### Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.2. Droughts	Future	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.3. Temperature extremes	Future	Whole (>90%)	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		

### Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
Percentage of population protected by PAs (0-100): 100

### Research Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

<b>Research Needed</b>
1. Research -> 1.1. Taxonomy
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats

## Additional Data Fields

<b>Distribution</b>
Number of Locations: 1
Lower elevation limit (m): 1550
Upper elevation limit (m): 1600
<b>Population</b>
Population severely fragmented: Unknown

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