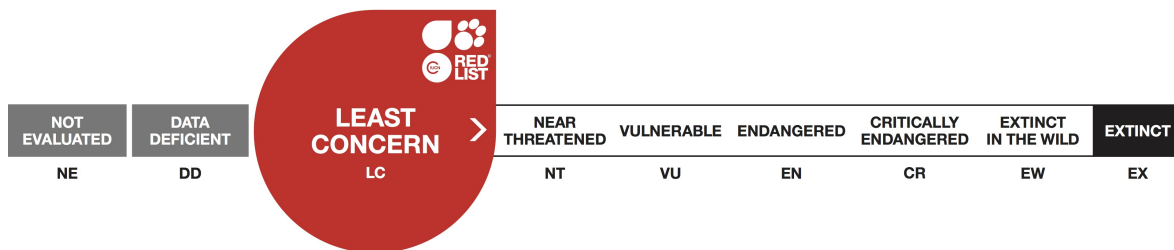


Lacerta agilis, Sand Lizard

Assessment by: Agasyan, A. *et al.*



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Lacertidae

Taxon Name: *Lacerta agilis* Linnaeus, 1758

Synonym(s):

- *Lacerta boemica*
- *Lacerta paradoxa*
- *Lacerta stirpium*
- *Seps argus*
- *Seps caerulescens*
- *Seps ruber*

Regional Assessments:

- [Europe](#)

Common Name(s):

- English: Sand Lizard
- French: Lezard des Souches
- Spanish: Lagarto Ágil

Taxonomic Notes:

A phylogeographic study of this species based on mtDNA (Kalyabina *et al.* 2001) identified three groups of populations. Further studies of contact areas are needed to evaluate the taxonomic status of these three lineages (Crochet and Dubois 2004).

Ten subspecies are recognized:

The nominative subspecies, *L. a. agilis* is distributed in Western Europe and western Central Europe;

L. a. argus Laurenti, 1758 inhabits Central Europe, east to the Carpathian Mountains and to eastern Poland;

L. a. chersonensis Andrzejowski, 1832 - Moldavia, right-bank Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic States, Leningrad region and south of the neighbouring Karelia. In the east, approximately from the left-bank valley of the river Dnieper a narrow area of intergradation with the neighbouring eastern subspecies is noted;

L. a. bosnica Schreiber, 1912 occurs in the mountains of Croatia, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Greece;

L. a. exigua Eichwald, 1831 occupies the whole eastern part of the distribution range up to the Crimean Peninsula and Ciscaucasia in the south;

L. a. grusinica Peters, 1960 inhabits the coast of the Black Sea and submontane regions of the Caucasus in the south-west of the Krasnodar Territory, Abkhazia, in the Colchic lowland and Ajaria;

L. a. brevicaudata Peters, 1958 occurs in northern and western Armenia, southern Georgia and on the southern slopes of the Great Caucasus range within the North Ossetia;

L. a. iorensis Peters and Muskhelishwili, 1968 occurs on the southern slopes of the Caucasus range: in the valley and ravine of the upper current of the river Iori in Georgia;

L. a. boemica Suchow, 1929 inhabits submontane regions of North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Chechnya and

Dagestan;

L. a. tauridica Suchow, 1926 inhabits the southern mountains of Crimea.

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2010

Date Assessed: June 30, 2009

Justification:

Lacerta agilis is listed as Least Concern in view of its very wide distribution, tolerance of a degree of habitat modification in some parts of its range and presumed large population. Although it is declining in parts of its range, overall it is unlikely to be declining fast enough (30% or more) to qualify for listing in a more threatened category at the global level. However, numerous subpopulations are threatened across the range of the species.

Geographic Range

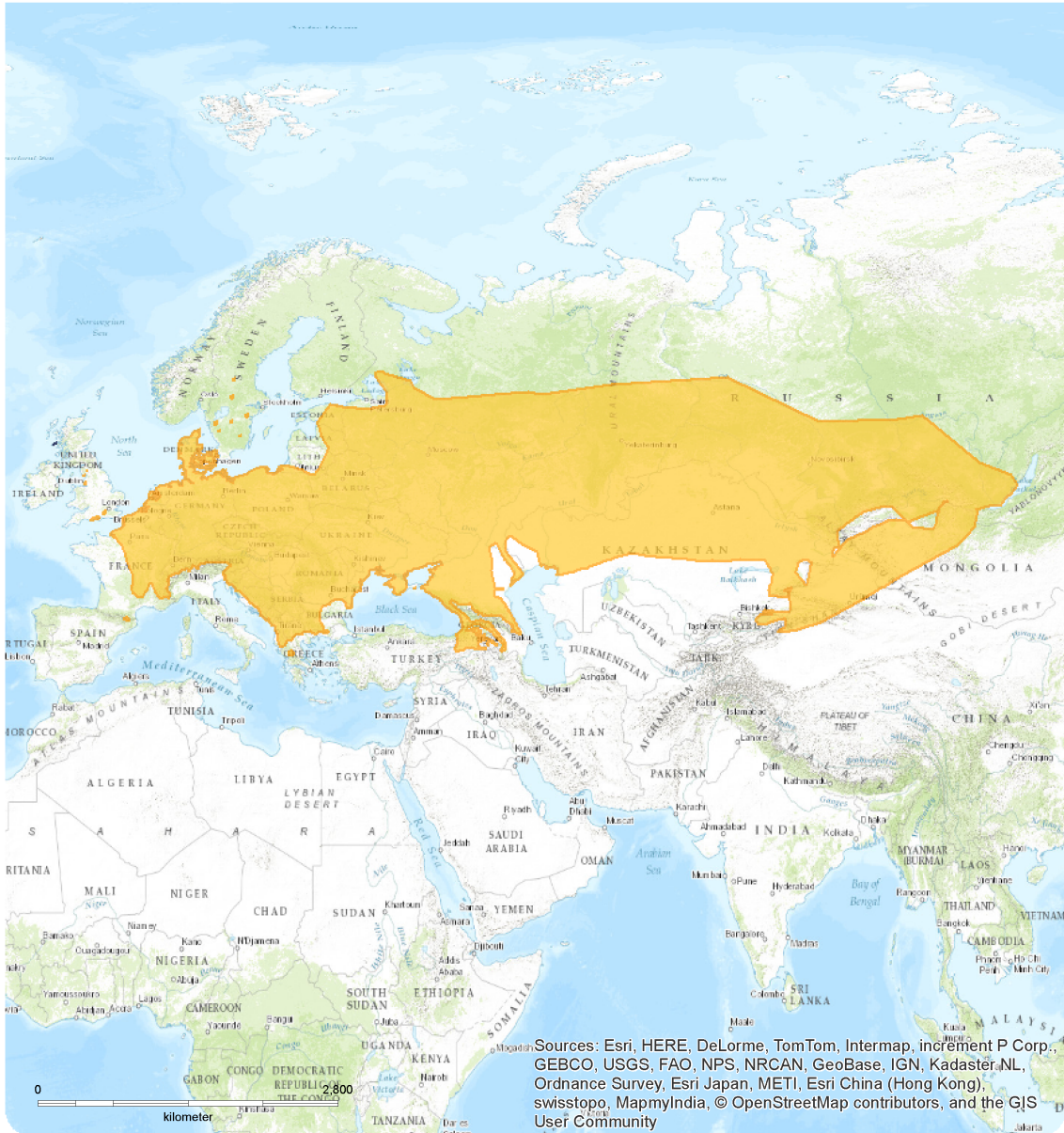
Range Description:

This species ranges from northeastern Spain (isolated populations in the Pyrenees at around 1,800 m asl), France, the United Kingdom (isolated and fragmented populations in the south and the northwest), and southern Scandinavia (throughout Denmark and with a patchy distribution in central and southern Sweden), eastwards through Western, Central and Eastern Europe (where it is patchily distributed) into the Caucasus Mountains, Central Asia and Eastern Asia, as far east as northwestern China and northwestern Mongolia. In Europe it ranges south to the Italian Alps (a few populations in southwestern and northeastern Alps only), northern and eastern Albania and northern Greece (where populations are largely isolated in mountain ranges). It occurs up to at least 2,500 m asl (Bulgaria).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Albania; Andorra; Armenia (Armenia); Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; China; Croatia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; France; Georgia; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Italy; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Latvia; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of; Moldova; Mongolia; Montenegro; Netherlands; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia (Serbia); Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine; United Kingdom

Distribution Map



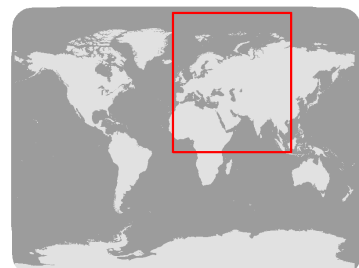
Lacerta agilis

Range

- Extant (resident)
- Introduced

Compiled by:
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

NE DD LC > NT VU EN CR EW EX
LEAST CONCERN



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



Population

This species can be common in suitable habitat. It is locally declining in Switzerland (B. Schmidt pers. comm.). In Sweden it occurs along the southern coast in continuous populations, inland populations are tiny (5-10 individuals) and relictual. This species is undergoing local declines in Slovenia and Croatia (M. Vogrin pers. comm.).

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species can be found in a wide range of habitat types including meadows, heathland, coastal dunes, grassland, steppe, subalpine and alpine meadows, shrubland, hedgerows, open woodland, in alpine areas, traditionally managed agricultural land and rural gardens. Sometimes it is present in sandy semi-desert areas. In the northwest of its range (e.g. UK) it is largely restricted to open heathland and coastal dune habitats.

It appears after hibernation in March in the North, in March - April in the South and at mountains. The female may lay one or two clutches of between four and 14 eggs per year. Incubation period lasts 50 - 55 days. Young of first generation appear in July - August, second - in September - October.

Systems: Terrestrial

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is threatened by habitat loss through urbanization, conversion to intensive agricultural use (especially the loss of hedgerows and other suitable habitats), coastal and alpine tourism development and the loss of traditional forestry practices, and unsustainable management. Many animals are killed on roads in parts of its range (e.g. Austria). Some populations in Sweden are reported to be suffering from inbreeding depression due to a fragmented distribution (Olsson *et al.* 1996). There is some predation of animals by cats in urban areas. Open habitats, which this species requires, are being overgrown with vegetation. It is a threatened species in much of the northwest of its range, including the United Kingdom, Scandinavia and northern Germany.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

The species is included in the Red Data Books of numerous countries in the western part of its range. It is listed on Appendix II of the Bern Convention, and on Annex IV of the European Union Habitat and Species Directive. It is protected by national legislation in most of its range countries (all EU). This species is categorized as Vulnerable in Switzerland (Monney and Meyer 2005). It is present in a number of protected areas over much of its range. Habitat restoration projects (e.g. Estonia) and reintroductions for the species (e.g. UK) are taking place in parts of its range. More research on its biology and threats and monitoring is needed.

Credits

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- Reviewer(s):** Cox, N., Temple, H.J. (Global Reptile Assessment Coordinating Team) & Böhm, M., Collen, B., Ram, M. (Sampled Red List Index Coordinating Team)
- Contributor(s):** De Silva, R., Lewis, S., Lintott, P., Milligan, H.T., Powney, G., Sears, J., Wilson, P., Wearn, O.R., Wren, S. & Zamin, T.

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Schleswig-Holstein. *Die Eidechse* 13(1): 1-7.

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External Resources

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Appendix

Habitats

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

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.1. Forest - Boreal	-	Suitable	-
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	-	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.3. Shrubland - Boreal	-	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.4. Shrubland - Temperate	-	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Marginal	-
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	-	Marginal	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	-	Marginal	-

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.1. Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.3. Tourism & recreation areas	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.3. Agro-industry farming	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.4. Scale Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.2. Wood & pulp plantations -> 2.2.2. Agro-industry plantations	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion		

				1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.3. Livestock farming & ranching -> 2.3.3. Agro-industry grazing, ranching or farming	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:			1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.3. Livestock farming & ranching -> 2.3.4. Scale Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:			1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation
4. Transportation & service corridors -> 4.1. Roads & railroads	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:			2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality

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
In-Place Species Management
Successfully reintroduced or introduced benignly: Yes
In-Place Education
Included in international legislation: Yes

Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 2500

Population
Population severely fragmented: No

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