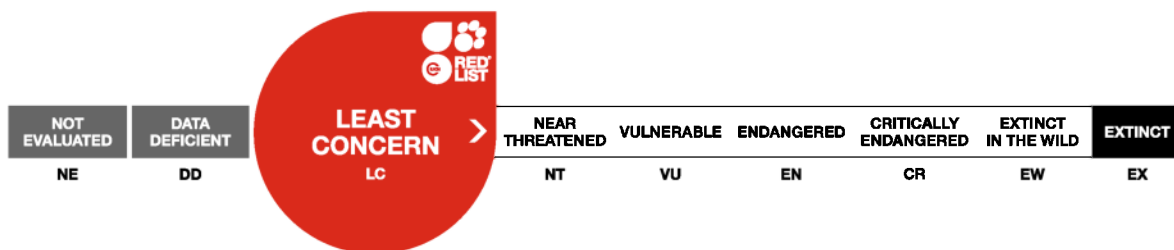


Lacerta agilis, Sand Lizard

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



View on www.iucnredlist.org

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Lacertidae

Scientific Name: *Lacerta agilis* Linnaeus, 1758

Synonym(s):

- *Lacerta boemica* Suchov, 1929
- *Lacerta paradoxa* Bedriaga, 1886
- *Lacerta stirpium* Daudin, 1802
- *Seps argus* Laurenti, 1768
- *Seps caeruleus* Laurenti, 1768
- *Seps ruber* Laurenti, 1768

Regional Assessments:

- Europe

Common Name(s):

- English: Sand Lizard
- French: Lezard des Souches
- Spanish; Castilian: Lagarto Ágil
- Azerbaijani: Sychrajan Kertenkele
- Chinese: 捷蜥蜴
- Georgian: Mardi Khvliki
- German: Zauneidechse
- Italian: Lucertole Agile
- Macedonian: Планинска гуштерица
- Mongolian: Gavshgay Gurvel
- Russian: Prytkaya Yashcheritsa
- Turkish: Kars Kertenkelesi

Taxonomic Source(s):

Uetz, P., Freed, P. and Hošek, J. (eds). 2021. The Reptile Database. Available at: <http://www.reptile-database.org>. (Accessed: 1 June 2021).

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). This species has "many" subspecies (Speybroeck *et al.* 2016): nine are generally recognized (Andres *et al.* 2014) but others have been described and there is a degree of inconsistency between authors in both the number of subspecies and their range boundaries. Andres *et al.* (2014) found that *Lacerta agilis bohemica* is more distinct genetically from other members of the species complex than *Lacerta viridis* and *L. bilineata* are from one another, but took no taxonomic action. These authors also identified issues in need of taxonomic attention within the *L. agilis* complex.

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2021

Date Assessed: May 8, 2018

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.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2010 – Least Concern (LC)

<https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2010-4.RLTS.T157288A5071439.en>

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species is widely distributed in much of western, central and eastern Europe, with a western range limit in the Spanish Pyrenees at around 1,800 m asl., and ranges east through the Caucasus Mountains and Central Asia to the northwest of China (Tien-Shan and the eastern part of Xinjiang) and southwest Mongolia. Zhao *et al.* (1999) describes the Chinese range as Ili, Tacheng and Altay in northwestern Xinjiang, at elevations to 500–1,200 m asl. In northern Europe the species occurs throughout Denmark, as patchily-distributed subpopulations in central and southern Sweden (including the border region with Norway - Sindaco and Jeremčenko 2008), and as isolated and fragmented subpopulations in the south and northwest of England and north Wales. In 2014, it was recorded from several localities in the Turku region of Finland for the first time (Petiola 2014); the origin of Finnish subpopulations is unknown (A. Koli pers. comm. 2015).

In Europe, the species has a southern range limit in the Italian Alps (a few subpopulations in the southwestern and northeastern Alps), northern and eastern Albania and northern Greece (where subpopulations are largely isolated in mountain ranges). In Central and northern Asia it ranges patchily through northern half of Kazakhstan, and north as far as 60°N in Siberian Russia; it occurs marginally in the eastern Issyk-Kul area of Kyrgyzstan (Sindaco and Jeremčenko 2008). It occurs up to at least 2,500 m asl (Bulgaria).

Country Occurrence:

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

Native, Presence Uncertain: Norway

Extant & Origin Uncertain: Finland

Distribution Map

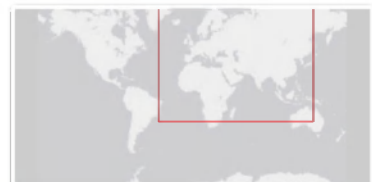
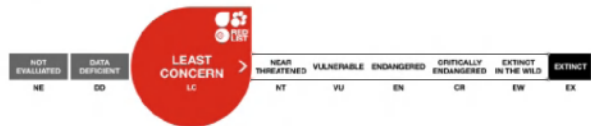


Legend

EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

IUCN & CI 2018



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 subpopulations; inland subpopulations are tiny (5–10 individuals) and relictual. This species is undergoing local declines in Slovenia and Croatia (M. Vogrin pers. comm.). While only recently recorded from Finland, and in a rather restricted area, it is thought that the national population may number at least in the hundreds (A. Koli pers. comm. 2015). It is very common in Kazakhstan, occurring in high densities and with a stable population (Tertyshnikov *et al.* 1976, Baranov *et al.* 1976) and many specimens are held in collections. Densities are low in Mongolia, with 8–9 individuals recorded in a two hour search (K. Terbish unpubl. data), however, the population is presumed to be stable. In China, the species is common with a stable population (L. Shi pers. comm. 2018).

Current Population Trend: Stable

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. in the UK) it is largely restricted to open heathland and coastal dune habitats. It appears after hibernation in March in the north of its European range, in March–April in the south and in mountains. In Mongolia, it is associated with montane habitats with juniper scrub and sources of freshwater (Terbish *et al.* 2006). In China, this species prefers hot and sunny areas characterized by vegetation, including grasslands, forests, orchards and shrubs (Zhao *et al.* 1999). From the end of May to June the eggs are laid in small earthen nests, with 3–15 per clutch (Zhao *et al.* 1999). It preys on a variety of arthropods and occasionally small lizards. The summer is the most active season (Zhao *et al.* 1999). The female may lay one or two clutches per year. Its incubation period lasts 50–55 days. The first clutch of the year typically hatch in July–August, and the second in September–October.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

There is some local collection by terrarium hobbyists in the Caucasus (I. Doronin pers. comm. 2016), and probably elsewhere in its range, but no significant international trade. There are people searching online to obtain this species as a pet in China (B. Cai pers. comm. 2018).

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. It is found in the pet trade, but in numbers that are unlikely to be significant.

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, including the entirety of the European Union. 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. It is listed in the "List of Beneficial or of Important Economic or Scientific Value Terrestrial Wild Animals under States Protection", under the protection of the "Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Wildlife" (L. Shi and B. Cai pers. comm. 2018). Habitat restoration projects (e.g. Estonia), and captive breeding and reintroductions (e.g. UK) are taking place in parts of its range. The subpopulation in the Crimean mountains in the Ukraine may warrant special protection (Kotenko 2006). Monitoring of subpopulations, and research into threats to the species outside the well-studied European subpopulations, is required.

Credits

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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	Resident	Suitable	-
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.3. Shrubland - Boreal	Resident	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.4. Shrubland - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	Resident	Marginal	-
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	Resident	Marginal	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	Resident	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	Resident	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	Resident	Marginal	-

Use and Trade

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

End Use	Local	National	International
Pets/display animals, horticulture	Yes	No	No

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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	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	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation	
4. Transportation & service corridors -> 4.1. Roads & railroads	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Action in Place
In-place land/water protection
Occurs in at least one protected area: Yes
In-place species management
Successfully reintroduced or introduced benignly: Yes
In-place education
Included in international legislation: Yes

Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Action Needed
1. Land/water protection -> 1.2. Resource & habitat protection

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): 2,500
Population
Population severely fragmented: No

The IUCN Red List Partnership



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