

Nucras livida (A. Smith, 1838)

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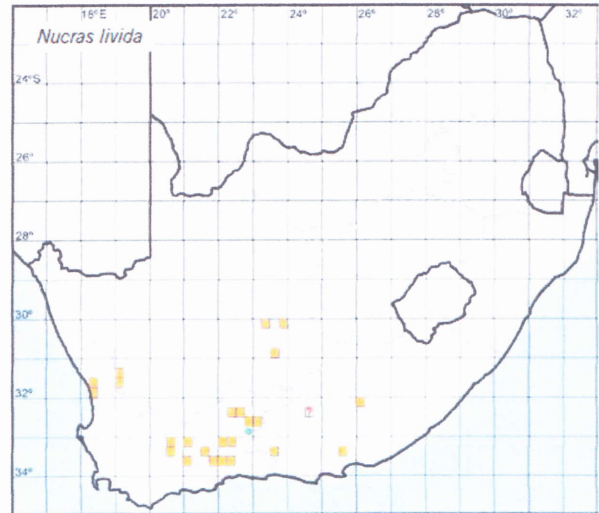
Marius Burger

Global: Least Concern

Endemic

Taxonomy: Previously treated as a subspecies of *Nucras tessellata* (Broadley 1972) but elevated to species rank by Branch & Bauer (1995). A molecular phylogeny of *Nucras* confirmed the species status of *N. livida*, which is most closely related to the sister grouping of *N. tessellata* and *N. taeniolata* (Edwards *et al.* 2013b). Nevertheless, a detailed molecular phylogeny of this species is still needed. The photograph at the bottom right represents the first record of blue hindlimbs in a juvenile of this species.

Distribution: Endemic to South Africa where it occurs primarily in karroid regions of the Western Cape, extending into the Eastern and Northern Cape provinces. The isolated records in the Nieuwoudtville and Vredendal areas (Du Toit & Alblas 2003), southeastern parts of the Northern Cape (Broadley 1972), Eastern Cape at Graaff-Reinet (3224BC, questionable as the specimen was not examined by Broadley 1972), Dunbrody (3325BC, Broadley 1972) and Commando Drift Nature Reserve (3226AA, Burger & Hahndiek 1993), should stimulate further investigation. An old record from Port Elizabeth (see Broadley 1972) is doubtful and was not plotted on the map, as this species has not been recorded from the area for over 50 years.



Habitat: Mainly associated with well-vegetated karroid sandy flats (Branch 1998) but also recorded from sandy soils of the Bokkeveld Group with thorny shrubs and scattered succulents (Du Toit & Alblas 2003).

Bioregion: Rainshadow Valley Karoo; Lower Karoo; Karoo Renosterveld; West Strandveld.

Assessment rationale: Common, with a fairly wide distribution in South Africa and no known significant threats.

Conservation measures: None recommended.



Nucras livida, adult—About 28 km SE of Britstown, NC

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Nucras livida, juvenile—Farm Tierberg, NE of Prince Albert, WC

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