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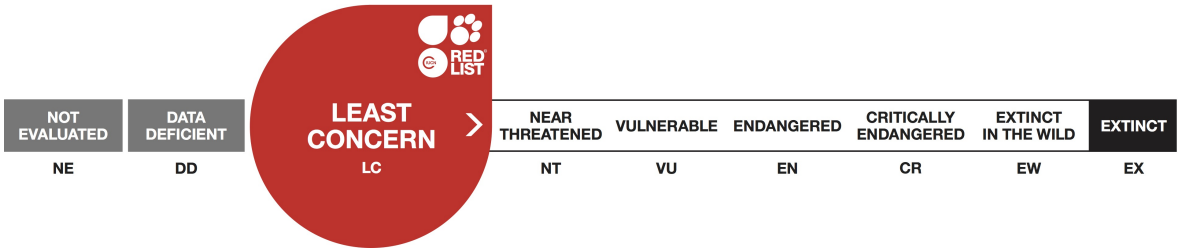
Darevskia armeniaca, Armenian Lizard

Assessment by: Aram Agasyan and Natalia Ananjeva



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Lacertidae

Taxon Name: *Darevskia armeniaca* (Méhely, 1909)

Synonym(s):

- *Lacerta muralis chalibdea*
- *Lacerta saxicola armeniaca*

Common Name(s):

- English: Armenian Lizard
- French: Lezard armenien

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern ver 3.1

Year Published: 2009

Date Assessed: December 14, 2008

Justification:

Listed as Least Concern as it is common within its restricted distribution, its presumed large population, it is somewhat adaptable to habitat modification, and because it is unlikely to be declining fast enough to qualify for listing in a more threatened category. In addition this is a parthenogenic species and has the ability to recover rapidly from population reductions

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species is present in the Caucasus region, where it has been recorded from northeastern Turkey (Vilayets Trabzon, Ardahan and Kars), northwestern Armenia, western Azerbaijan and southern Georgia. It has been introduced to northern Ukraine. It is found up to 2,500m asl (Turkey).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Armenia (Armenia); Azerbaijan; Georgia; Turkey

Introduced: Ukraine

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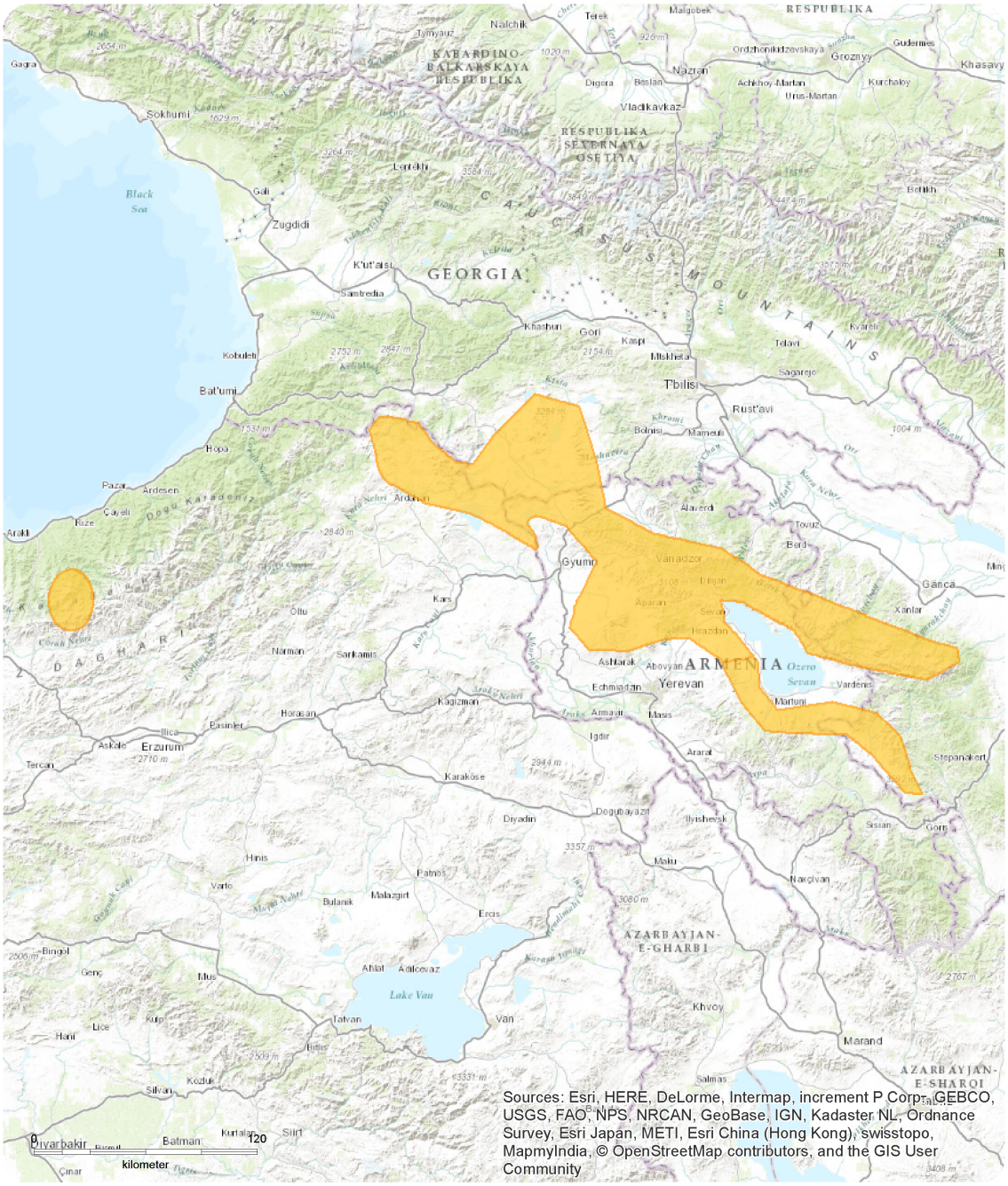
Distribution Map



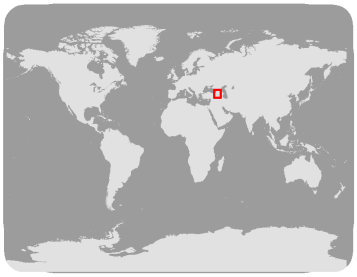
Darevskia armeniaca

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

Range

Extant (resident)

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



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

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Population

It is common, sometimes numerous species (up to 200 specimens for 1 km of route).

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This is a montane species that is found in rocky areas, and high steppes, where lives among herbaceous vegetation. It is sometimes common in ruins and on the walls of buildings. This is a parthenogenic species; three or four eggs are laid in a clutch (Baran and Atatur, 1998) in middle of June - early the July. Large females can to lay second clutches. The incubation period of eggs lasts about 55 days, and the young hatch at the end of July to the beginning of August. Animals emerge after hibernation from the end of March to the beginning of May (in depending on altitude of habitat). It reaches maximum size by about the fourth year.

Systems: Terrestrial

Threats

There are no overall major threats to the species, however some subpopulations are locally threatened by overgrazing of their habitat by domestic livestock (cattle) and the associated habitat destruction. The species is adaptable to some habitat change and populations can be found living on churches and similar old buildings.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species occurs in a number of national parks and nature reserves (including Khosrov National Park and Sevan Lake National Park [both Armenia]).

Credits

Assessor(s): Aram Agasyan and Natalia Ananjeva

Reviewer(s): Neil Cox and Helen Temple

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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?
4. Grassland -> 4.4. Grassland - Temperate	-	Suitable	-
0. Root -> 6. Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	-	Marginal	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.5. Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	-	Marginal	-

Conservation Actions in Place
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range

Research Needed
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Research Needed
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 1500
Upper elevation limit (m): 2500
Population
Population severely fragmented: No

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