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Darevskia alpina

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Lacertidae

Taxon Name: *Darevskia alpina* (Darevsky, 1967)

Synonym(s):

- *Lacerta alpina*

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Vulnerable B1ab(i,iii,v) ver 3.1

Year Published: 2009

Date Assessed: December 14, 2008

Justification:

Listed as Vulnerable because its Extent of Occurrence is less than 10,000 km2, it is known from fewer than ten severely fragmented locations, and there is continuing decline in the quality of habitat due to human conversion and climate change and the number of mature individuals is declining.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

1996 – Data Deficient (DD)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species is endemic to a narrow belt of subalpine meadows in the Great Caucasus Range of Georgia and Russia. Populations have been recorded from Mount Elbrus and the Baksan River in the east to the Fisht and Osten mountains in the west. Further to the west it is widely distributed in the upper reaches of the Kuban', Teberda, Zelenchuk, Belaya, Laba rivers and other waterbodies flowing to the north. Populations have also been recorded from the southern slopes of the Caucasus, in the upper reaches of the Bzyb' River and its tributaries in Abkchazia and in the upper reaches of the Mzymta River from the slopes of Mount Aibga. It has been recorded between 1,650 and 2,800m asl.

Country Occurrence:

Native: Georgia; Russian Federation

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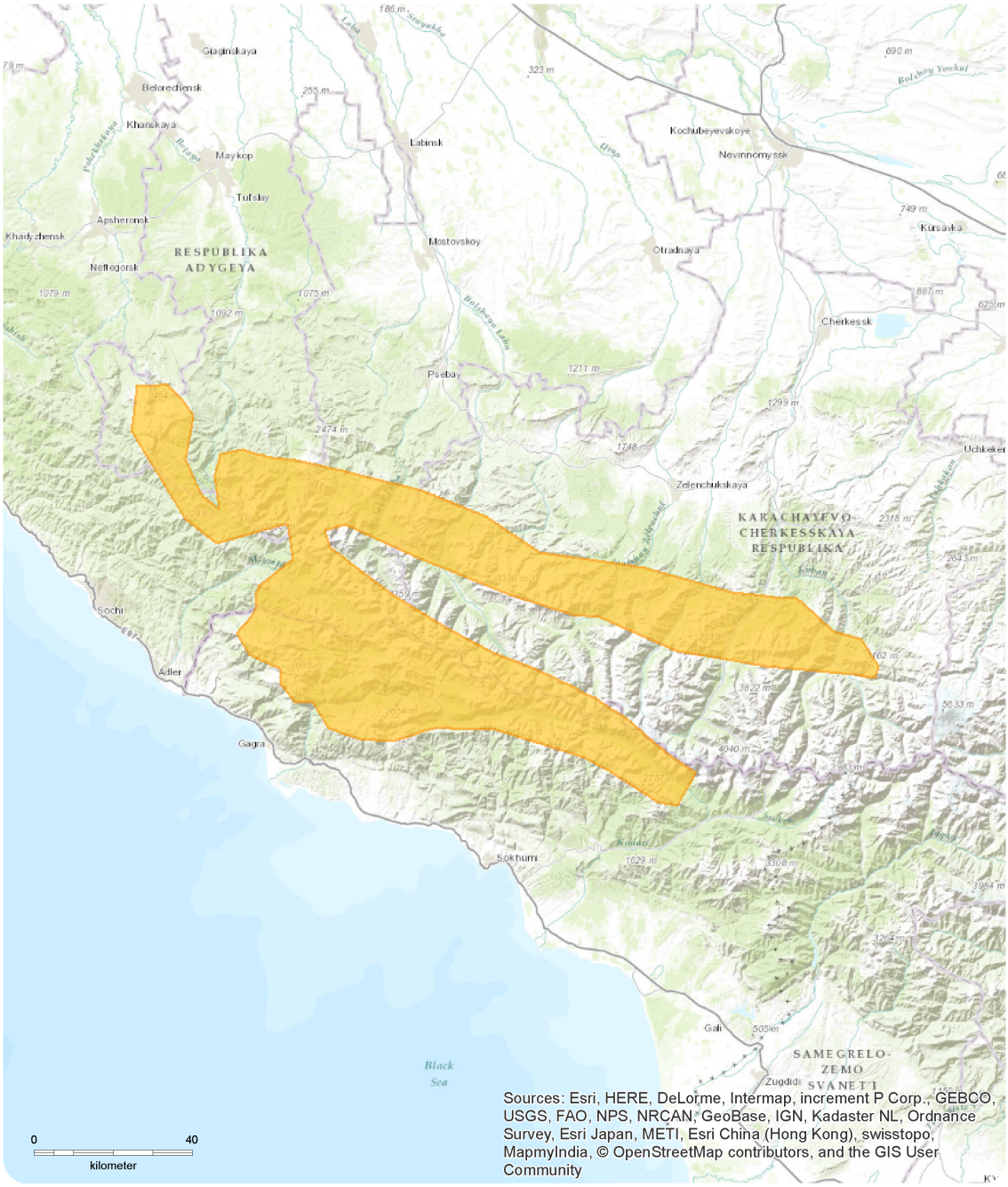
Distribution Map



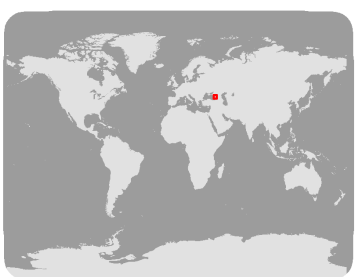
Darevskia alpina

NE DD LC NT VU VULNERABLE 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

This species is generally rare. Populations are predominantly found on southern slopes, with north facing populations becoming increasingly rare as they are considered to be susceptible to climate change. The species is most abundant between 1,800 and 2,200m asl where the most suitable habitat is available.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species inhabits the subalpine and alpine belt, where it prefers open areas of alpine meadows with rocks or piles of stones. The number of eggs in the clutch varies from two to six, averaging four or five.

Systems: Terrestrial

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is threatened by general habitat loss within its narrow elevational range. In addition to modification of areas by people for tourism and other activities, the habitat of this species appears to be impacted by climate change. Longer, warmer summers are reducing the survival rate for eggs, and increasingly colder winters are reducing the number of young animals surviving hibernation. A continuing cycle of hot summers and cold winters can lead to a sharp reduction in the number of animals.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Populations of this species have been recorded from the Caucasus and Teberda Reserves. Additional studies are needed into the impact of climate change on this species, with trends in population numbers regularly monitored.

Credits

Assessor(s): Boris Tuniyev, Natalia Ananjeva, Aram Agasyan, Nikolai Orlov, and Sako Tuniyev

Reviewer(s): Neil Cox and Helen Temple

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Citation

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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 -> 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	-	Marginal	-

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
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 -> 2.3. 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		
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.3. Temperature extremes	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
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range

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

Conservation Actions Needed
2. Land/water management -> 2.1. Site/area management
4. Education & awareness -> 4.3. Awareness & communications

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Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 1650
Upper elevation limit (m): 2800
Population
Population severely fragmented: Yes

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