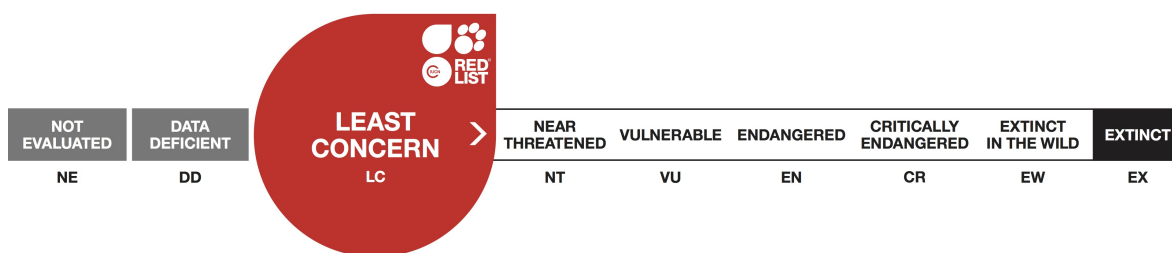


Darevskia caucasica, Caucasian lizard

Assessment by: Boris Tuniyev, Natalia Ananjeva, Aram Agasyan, Nikolai Orlov,
 and Sako Tuniyev



View on www.iucnredlist.org

Citation: Boris Tuniyev, Natalia Ananjeva, Aram Agasyan, Nikolai Orlov, and Sako Tuniyev. 2009. *Darevskia caucasica*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2009: e.T164713A5920006. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2009.RLTS.T164713A5920006.en>

Copyright: © 2015 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Reproduction of this publication for resale, reposting or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission from the copyright holder. For further details see [Terms of Use](#).

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the [IUCN Global Species Programme](#), the [IUCN Species Survival Commission \(SSC\)](#) and [The IUCN Red List Partnership](#). The IUCN Red List Partners are: [BirdLife International](#); [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#); [Conservation International](#); [Microsoft](#); [NatureServe](#); [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#); [Sapienza University of Rome](#); [Texas A&M University](#); [Wildscreen](#); and [Zoological Society of London](#).

If you see any errors or have any questions or suggestions on what is shown in this document, please provide us with [feedback](#) so that we can correct or extend the information provided.

Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Lacertidae

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

Synonym(s):

- *Lacerta muralis caucasica*
- *Lacerta saxicola caucasica*
- *Lacerta saxicola gracilis*

Common Name(s):

- English: Caucasian lizard
- French: Lezard du Caucase

Taxonomic Notes:

The restricted range subspecies *D. c. vedenica* (Darevsky and Rotberg, 1999) is found on the northern slopes of the Andiysky Mountain range in the south-eastern Chechnya and possibly in the adjacent part of Ingushetia. The nominative subspecies, *D. c. caucasica*, occurs throughout the remainder of the range.

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2009

Date Assessed: December 14, 2008

Justification:

Listed as Least Concern in view of its wide distribution, presumed large population, it occurs in a number of protected areas, and because it is unlikely to be declining fast enough to qualify for listing in a more threatened category.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

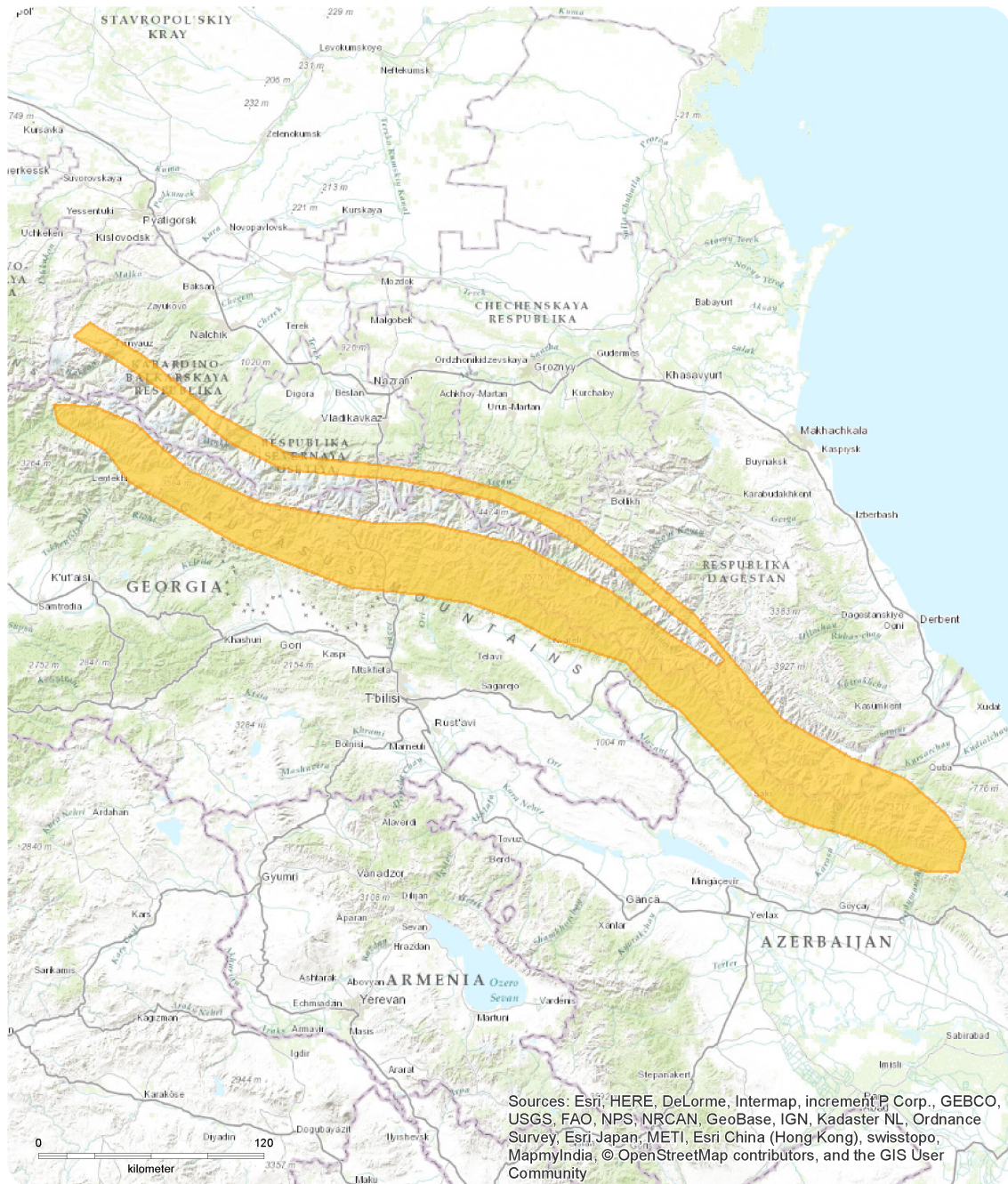
This species is widely distributed on the northern and southern slopes of the Great Caucasus Range from the northern foothills of Mount Elbrus in Kabardino-Balkaria in the west, up to the southeastern extreme point of the Caspian mountain chain within Azerbaijan in the east. The southwestern limits of its distribution pass through the southern foothills of the Megrel'sky, Svanetsky and Lekhchumsky mountain ranges in lower Svanetia, and from here through South Ossetia approximately to the area of the Dzhava health-resort. The species is found along the southern spurs of the Kharul'sky, Kartalinsky and Kakhetinsky mountain ranges, as far as the Water Dividing (Watershed) Range in the Alazan River valley of Georgia. In Azerbaijan it is found in the upper reaches of rivers beginning in the Great Range, and to the east of here, from the slopes of the mountains Baba-Dag and Dyubrar, and in particular

valleys of the Pirsagat and Sumgait rivers. This species is also widely distributed on the northern slopes of the Great Caucasus range, from the Baksan ravine in Kabardino-Balkaria in the west to the Samur range in south Dagestan in the east. The northwestern limit of the distribution passes through the Baksan ravine, approximately from the town of Tegenekly in the south, continuing to the east on the northern foothills of the Skalisty and Bokovoi ranges. The most northern populations are known from the Adyr-su ravine, near to the waterfall in the Chegemskaya gorge, and from the vicinity of the Blue Lakes in Kabardino-Balkaria and the vicinity of Alagir, to the settlement of Balta in the lower part of the Dar'yal ravine of North Ossetia. It has been recorded up to 3,200m asl (Darevsky 1984).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Azerbaijan; Georgia; Russian Federation

Distribution Map



Darevskia caucasica

Range

Extant (resident)

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 is common.

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Populations of this montane species inhabit rocky outcrops, piles of stones, ravine slopes and river banks. Animals have also been recorded from woodlands and alpine meadows. The females lay two to five eggs.

Systems: Terrestrial

Threats

There are no major threats to this widespread species as a whole.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Populations have been recorded from several protected areas. Other than general research activities, no direct conservation measures are needed for this species as a whole.

Credits

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

Reviewer(s): Neil Cox and Helen Temple

Bibliography

- Alekperov A. M. 1978. *Zemnovodnye i presmykajuschiesya Azerbajdžana*. Alm, Baku.
- Ananjeva, N. B., Borkin, L. Y., Darevsky, I. S. and Orlov, N. L. 1988. *Dictionary of animal names in five languages. Amphibians and Reptiles*. Russky Yazyk, Moscow.
- Ananjeva, N. B., Borkin, L. Y., Darevsky, I. S., Orlov, N. L. 1998. *Amphibii i presmykajushchiesya*. AFB, Moscow.
- Ananjeva, N.B., Orlov, N.L., Khalikov, R.G., Darevsky, I.S., Ryabov, I.S. and Barabanov, A.V. 2006. *An Atlas of the Reptiles of North Eurasia. Taxonomic Diversity, Distribution, Conservation Status*. Pensoft Series Faunistica.
- Ananjeva, N. B., Orlov, N. L., Khalikov, R. G., Darevsky, I. S., Ryabov, S. A., Barabanov, A. V. 2004. *Atlas presmykajushchikhsya Severnoi Eurazii*. Zoologichesky Institute RAN, Sanct-Petrburg.
- Bannikov, A. G., Darevsky, I. S., Ishchenko, V. G., Rustamov, A. K., Zczserbak, N. N. 1977. *Opredelitel' zemnovodnykh i presmykajushchikhsya fauni SSSR*. Prosveshchenye, Minsk.
- Bischoff, W. 1978. Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Echsen des Kaukasus. *Salamandra*: 178-202.
- Bischoff, W. 2002. Auf der Suche nach *Darevskia valentini* (Boettger, 1892) in Georgien - Impressionen aus einem wenig bekannten Land. *Elaphe*: 49-61.
- Bischoff, W. 2005. Die echten Eidechsen der Familie Lacertidae - eine Übersicht. *Draco*: 4-27.
- Darevsky, I. S. 1967. *Skal'nye yashcheritzi Kaukaza*. Nauka, Leningrad (Sanct-Peterburg).
- Darevsky, I.S. 1984. *Lacerta caucasica* - Kaukasische Felseidechse. In: Böhme, W. (ed.), *Handbuch der Reptilien und Amphibien Europas, Band 2/1., Echsen II (Lacerta)*, pp. 225-238. Aula-Verlag, Wiesbaden.
- Darevsky, I.S. and Roitberg, E.S. 1999. A new subspecies of the rock lizard *Lacerta caucasica* (Sauria, Lacertidae) from the south-east of Chechen Republic on the Caucasus. *Russ. J. Herpetol.*: 209-214.
- Fu, J. and Murphy, R.W. 1997. Toward the phylogeny of caucasian rock lizards: implications from mitochondrial DNA gene sequences (Reptilia: Lacertidae). *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*: 463-477.
- Fu, J., Darevsky, I.S., MacCulloch, R.D., Kupriyanova, L.A., Roitberg, E.S., Sokolova, T.M. and Murphy, R.W. 1995. Genetic and morphological differentiation among caucasian rock lizards of the *Lacerta caucasica* complex. *Russ. J. Herpetol.*: 36-42.
- IUCN. 2009. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (ver. 2009.1). Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 22 June 2009).
- Murphy, R.W., Fu, J., MacCulloch, R.D., Darevsky, I.S. and Kupriyanova, L.A. 2000. A fine line between sex and unisexuality: the phylogenetic constraints on parthenogenesis in lacertid lizards. *Zool. J. Linn. Soc.* 130: 527-549.
- Muskhelishvili, T. A. 1967. *Presmykajushchiesya Vostochnoi Gruzii*.
- Roitberg, E.S. 1994. Morphological analysis of the Caucasian rock lizards *Lacerta caucasica caucasica* and *L. c. daghestanica* from the contact zone. *Russ. J. Herpetol.*: 179-184.
- Roitberg, E.S., Mazanaeva, L.F., Ilyina, E. and Orlova, V.F. 2000. Die Echsen Dagestans (Nordkaukasus, Russland): Artenliste und aktuelle Verbreitungsdaten (Reptilia: Sauria: Gekkonidae, Agamidae, Anguinae).

Scincidae et Lacertidae). *Faunist. Abh. Staatl. Mus. Tierk. Dresden*: 95-116.

Sindaco, R. and Jeremčenko, V.K. 2008. *The Reptiles of the Western Palearctic. 1. Annotated Checklist and Distributional atlas of the turtles, crocodiles, amphisbaenians and lizards of Europe, North Africa, Middle East and Central Asia*. Edizioni Belvedere, Latina (Italy).

Citation

Boris Tuniyev, Natalia Ananjeva, Aram Agasyan, Nikolai Orlov, and Sako Tuniyev. 2009. *Darevskia caucasica*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2009*: e.T164713A5920006.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2009.RLTS.T164713A5920006.en>

Disclaimer

To make use of this information, please check the [Terms of Use](#).

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?
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	-	Marginal	-
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.1. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	-	Marginal	-
0. Root -> 6. Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	-	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
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 1200
Upper elevation limit (m): 3200
Population
Population severely fragmented: No

The IUCN Red List Partnership



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the [IUCN Global Species Programme](#), the [IUCN Species Survival Commission \(SSC\)](#) and [The IUCN Red List Partnership](#). The IUCN Red List Partners are: [BirdLife International](#); [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#); [Conservation International](#); [Microsoft](#); [NatureServe](#); [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#); [Sapienza University of Rome](#); [Texas A&M University](#); [Wildscreen](#); and [Zoological Society of London](#).