Timon lepidus, Ocellated Lizard

Assessment by: Juan M. Pleguezuelos, Paulo Sá-Sousa, Valentin Pérez-Mellado, Rafael Marquez, Marc Cheylan, Claudia Corti, Iñigo Martínez-Solano

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Taxonomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animalia</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
<td>Reptilia</td>
<td>Squamata</td>
<td>Lacertidae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Taxon Name:** *Timon lepidus* (Daudin, 1802)

**Synonym(s):**
- *Lacerta lepidus*

**Common Name(s):**
- English: Ocellated Lizard
- French: Lezard ocelle
- Spanish: Lagarto Ocelado, Lagarto Ocelado

**Taxonomic Notes:**
This species was described as *Lacerta*, but it is now placed in the genus *Timon* (Mayer and Bischoff 1996; Fu 1998, 2000; Harris et al. 1998; Harris and Carretero 2003), though Montori and Llorente (2005) and Sindaco and Jeremčenko (2008) retain it in *Lacerta*. It consists of a number of distinct genetic lineages of uncertain taxonomic status. Paulo (2001) suggested that the subspecies *Timon l. nevadensis* is a distinct species, but other lines of evidence are more indicative of subspecific status (Mateo et al., 1996; Mateo and López-Jurado 1994).

**Assessment Information**

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Near Threatened ver 3.1

**Year Published:** 2009

**Date Assessed:** December 14, 2008

**Justification:**
Listed as Near Threatened because this species is probably in significant decline (but probably at a rate of less than 30% over ten years), probably mainly because of widespread habitat loss through much of its range, thus making the species close to qualifying for Vulnerable.

**Previously Published Red List Assessments**
2006 – Near Threatened (NT)

**Geographic Range**

**Range Description:**
This species is widely found in Portugal and Spain; it is found as isolated populations in southern, south-central and western France (north to Oleron Island), and in extreme northwestern Italy. It also occurs on some Atlantic islands along the Spanish and Portuguese coasts. It is present on a few Mediterranean islands. It ranges from sea level up to 2,500m asl. The subspecies *T.l. oteroi* is endemic to Salvora Island.
in northwestern Spain.

**Country Occurrence:**

**Native:** France; Italy; Portugal; Spain
Distribution Map

Timon lepidus

Range
- Extant (resident)
- Extinct

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http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2009.RLTS.T61583A12498949.en
Population
Although it has been recorded at densities of up to 50 individuals per hectare, populations appear to be strongly declining in many parts of its range. Some insular populations as well as Italian ones are close to extinction. The subspecies *T.l. oteroi* numbers fewer than 10,000 individuals.

**Current Population Trend:** Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology *(see Appendix for additional information)*
This species is found in open and dry areas of woodland, scrubland, olive groves, vineyards, meadows, arable areas and sandy or rocky sites. It is generally present in areas that have refuges such as bushes, stone walls, rabbit burrows and other holes. The females lay clutches of five to twenty two eggs.

**Systems:** Terrestrial

Threats *(see Appendix for additional information)*
It is generally declining because of ongoing habitat loss, pesticide pollution and poisoning. Predators might also be eating this species more, due to the decline of rabbits. Also reduced livestock grazing might be reducing open areas suitable for this species. Current attempts to revive the former tradition of eating this species would also be very detrimental.

Conservation Actions *(see Appendix for additional information)*
Further studies are needed in order to understand the recent population declines of this species better. It is listed on Annex III of the Bern Convention and is present in a number of protected areas, though it has nearly disappeared from a number of these.

Credits

**Assessor(s):** Juan M. Pleguezuelos, Paulo Sá-Sousa, Valentin Pérez-Mellado, Rafael Marquez, Marc Cheylan, Claudia Corti, Iñigo Martínez-Solano

**Reviewer(s):** Cox, N. and Temple, H.J. (Global Reptile Assessment)
Bibliography


Galan, P. Anfibios y reptiles del parque nacional de las islas atlanticas de Galicia: faunistica, biologia y conservacion. Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Madrid.


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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Suitability</th>
<th>Major Importance?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest -&gt; 1.4. Forest - Temperate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shrubland -&gt; 3.4. Shrubland - Temperate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shrubland -&gt; 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Grassland -&gt; 4.4. Grassland - Temperate</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Artificial/Terrestrial -&gt; 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Artificial/Terrestrial -&gt; 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Artificial/Terrestrial -&gt; 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Artificial/Terrestrial -&gt; 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Impact Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Agriculture &amp; aquaculture -&gt; 2.1. Annual &amp; perennial non-timber crops -&gt; 2.1.3. Agro-industry farming</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stresses: 1. Ecosystem stresses -&gt; 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -&gt; 1.2. Ecosystem degradation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Biological resource use -&gt; 5.1. Hunting &amp; trapping terrestrial animals -&gt; 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)</td>
<td>Future</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stresses: 2. Species Stresses -&gt; 2.1. Species mortality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Natural system modifications -&gt; 7.3. Other ecosystem modifications</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stresses: 1. Ecosystem stresses -&gt; 1.2. Ecosystem degradation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Invasive &amp; other problematic species &amp; genes -&gt; 8.2. Problematic native species</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stresses: 2. Species Stresses -&gt; 2.1. Species mortality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Pollution -&gt; 9.3. Agricultural &amp; forestry effluents -&gt; 9.3.4. Type Unknown/Unrecorded</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stresses: 1. Ecosystem stresses -&gt; 1.2. Ecosystem degradation</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2009.RLTS.T61583A12498949.en
Conservation Actions in Place

In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management

Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range

In-Place Species Management

Harvest management plan: Yes

Conservation Actions Needed

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Actions Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Land/water management -&gt; 2.1. Site/area management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Needed

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Research -&gt; 1.2. Population size, distribution &amp; trends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Research -&gt; 1.3. Life history &amp; ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Research -&gt; 1.5. Threats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Research -&gt; 1.6. Actions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Data Fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower elevation limit (m): 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper elevation limit (m): 2500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population severely fragmented: No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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