

# Triturus vittatus

Region: 10

Taxonomic Authority: (Gray, 1835)

**Synonyms:**

Triturus ophzticus Berthold, 1846

**Common Names:**

Banded Newt English  
Maloziatskii Triton Russian

Order: Caudata

Family: Salamandridae

**Notes on taxonomy:** This is represented by two subspecies, T.v. vittatus ranging along the Mediterranean from Turkey to Israel, and T.v. ophryticus which is present in northern Turkey and the Caucasus region. The two subspecies are genetically very different and may represent two full species. The taxonomic status of a possible third subspecies T. v. cilicensis, is controversial and it is included here under T.v. vittatus.

## General Information

Biome  Terrestrial  Freshwater  Marine

**Geographic Range of species:**

This species has two disjunctive populations. The northern population ranges from the western Caucasus (mountain forest belt over the north-western and south-western slopes of the Main Caucasian Ridge), through northern Turkey up to the Bosphorus Strait. The southern population is found in southeastern Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel (the southern limit being the southern Coastal Plain [Ashkelon]). Recorded from 200m below sea level (Tabbaria Lake) to around 2,750m asl (Turkey)

**Habitat and Ecology Information:**

It is found in coniferous, mixed and deciduous forests (composed of birch, oaks, eastern hornbeams, alders, chestnuts, beech and rhododendrons) up to sub alpine meadows. Reproduction occurs in lakes, ponds (including temporary pools), large puddles, drainage canals, roadside ditches in meadows, slow-flowing streams and stream pools in open areas near or within forests. The number of eggs varies between 50 and 100. It can occur in some slightly modified habitats, although it appears to be more sensitive to habitat change in the south of its range.

**Conservation Measures:**

Listed in the Red Data Books of the USSR, Russia, Georgia and Israel. Protected by national legislation in Israel. Present in protected areas in Russia and Georgia. It was re-introduced in the Caucasian Nature Reserve. It is present in two or three protected areas in Turkey, and may be present (marginally) in a protected areas in Israel.

**Threats:**

This species is very sensitive to habitat loss. Construction and building along the Black Sea coastline may be impacting the northern Turkish population. Within the Caucasus, habitat loss (through forest destruction, destruction of wetlands, overgrazing by cattle, urbanisation, industrial and agrochemical pollution) are negatively impacting populations. In the Caucasus and Israel it is threatened by collection for the pet trade. The southern population is more threatened by the loss of suitable breeding habitats. In Israel it is additionally threatened by spraying of pesticides to combat mosquitos.

**Species population information:**

The species is sporadically distributed over much of its range (although common in suitable habitats). It is generally more rare in the south because of restricted habitat availability.

Country Distribution	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Armenia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Iraq	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Israel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jordan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lebanon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Russian Federation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Syrian Arab Republic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turkey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FAO Marine Habitats	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced

## Major Lakes

## Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences	Score	Lower Level Habitat Preferences	Score
1.4 Forest - Temperate	1	Broadleaf Forest	1
4.4 Grassland - Temperate	1	Conifer Forest	1
5.1 Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	1	Cool Forest and Field	9

5.2	Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks	2	Cool Mixed Forest	1
5.5	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Lakes (over 8ha)	1	Crops and Towns	9
5.6	Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Lakes (over 8ha)	2	Crops, Grass, Shrubs	2
5.7	Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	1	Deciduous Broadleaf Wood	1
5.8	Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	1	Fields and Woody Savanna	2
7.1	Caves and Subterranean Habitats (non-aquatic) - Caves	9	Forest and Field	1
11.1	Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	2	Grass Crops	9
11.2	Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	2	Mixed Forest	1
11.4	Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	9	Small Leaf Mixed Woods	1
11.5	Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	9	Urban	3
12.2	Artificial/Aquatic - Ponds (below 8ha)	1		
12.3	Artificial/Aquatic - Aquaculture Ponds	9		
12.5	Artificial/Aquatic - Excavations (open)	2		
12.9	Artificial/Aquatic - Canals and Drainage Channels, Ditches	1		

### Major threats

Code	Description of threat	Past	Present	Future
1	Habitat Loss/Degradation (human induced)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1	Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.1	Crops	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.1.3	Agro-industry farming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.4	Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.1.4.3	Agro-industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Extraction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3.3	Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.3.3.3	Clear-cutting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4	Infrastructure development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4.1	Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4.2	Human settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.4.3	Tourism/recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Harvesting (hunting/gathering)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Cultural/scientific/leisure activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5.2	Sub-national/national trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5.3	Regional/international trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Pollution (affecting habitat and/or species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3	Water pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3.1	Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3.2	Domestic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3.3	Commercial/Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1	Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1.2	National level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2	Implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.2.2	National level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Communication and Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.1	Formal education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Research actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Population numbers and range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Biology and Ecology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Habitat status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Threats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Uses and harvest levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.8	Conservation measures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.9	Trends/Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Habitat and site-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.2	Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4.1	Identification of new protected areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4.2	Establishment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4.3	Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Species-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.1	Re-introductions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Sustainable use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.3.1	Harvest management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.3.2	Trade management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use	Subsistence	National	International	Other purpose:
13. Pets/display animals, horticulture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Primary forms removed from the wild</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>&gt;75%</b>	<b>51-75%</b>	<b>26-50%</b> <b>&lt;25%</b>
1. Whole animal/plant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Source of specimens in commercial trade</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>&gt;75%</b>	<b>51-75%</b>	<b>26-50%</b> <b>&lt;25%</b>
Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:</b>	Unknown			
<b>Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:</b>	Unknown			

CITES: Not listed

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## Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Least Concern (LC)

Possibly Extinct

### Red List Criteria:

**Rationale for the Red List Assessment:** Listed as Least Concern in view of its wide distribution, tolerance of a broad range of habitats, presumed large population, and because it is unlikely to be declining fast enough to qualify for listing in a more threatened category.

**Current Population Trend:** Decreasing

**Date of Assessment:** 4/5/2004

**Assessor(s):** Jan Willem Arntzen, Sergius Kuzmin, Theodore Papenfuss, Gad Degani, Ismail Ugurtas, Ahmad Disi, David Tarkhnishvili, Boris

**Notes on Red listing:** The southern subspecies, *T. v. vittatus*, is significantly more threatened than the northern subspecies. These are genetically very different taxa.

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