Rhinechis scalaris

Region: 1

Taxonomic Authority: (Schinz, 1822)

Synonyms:

Common Names:

Ladder Snake	English
Treppennatter	German
Culebra de Escalera	Spanish
Cobra de Escada	Portuguese

Order: Ophidia

Family: Colubridae

Notes on taxonomy: This species is included in Rhinechis following Utiger et al. (2002).

General Information

Biome ☑ Terrestrial ☐ Freshwater ☐ Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species is found through much of Portugal and Spain (it is absent from much of northernmost Spain) and southern France. There is a record from northwestern Italy, but there is no recent confirmation of its occurrence in this country. It is present on the islands of Ons and Arousa in Galicia (Spain), Minorca (an old introduction) in the Balearic Islands (Spain), and Iles d'Hyères, France. The species ranges from sea level to 2,200 m asl.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

This species can be found in sunny and stony Mediterranean-type habitats with good vegetation cover, including riparian habitats. It can also be found in open woodlands and shrubland, at field edges, hedges, vineyards, olive groves, overgrown areas, stone walls and ruins. The females lay between four and 15 eggs that are deposited under ground cover.

Conservation Measures:

It is listed on Annex III of the Bern Convention and it is present in many protected areas.

Threats:

Although there appear to be no major threats to this species, it is locally threatened by accidental mortality on roads and loss of vegetation cover due to intensive agricultural methods.

Species population information:

It is generally an abundant species.

Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
France	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Italy	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐
Portugal	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spain	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

FAO Marine Habitats

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced

Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

	Score
1.4 Forest - Temperate	1
3.4 Shrubland - Temperate	1
3.8 Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1
11.1 Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	2
11.2 Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	1
11.3 Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	1
11.4 Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	1

Lower Level Habitat Preferences

	Score

Major threats

Code	Description of threat	Past	Present	Future
1	Habitat Loss/Degradation (human induced)	☑	☑	☑
1.1	Agriculture	☑	☑	☑
1.1.1	Crops	☑	☑	☑
1.1.1.3	Agro-industry farming	☑	☑	☑
4	Accidental mortality	☑	☑	☑
4.2	Collision	☑	☑	☑

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	☑	☐
1.2	Legislation	☑	☐
1.2.1	Development	☑	☐
1.2.1.1	International level	☑	☐
1.2.1.2	National level	☑	☐
1.2.2	Implementation	☑	☐

4.2.2	Vehicle collision	☑	☑	☑	1.2.2.1	International level	☑	☐
					3	Research actions	☐	☑
					3.9	Trends/Monitoring	☐	☑
					4	Habitat and site-based actions	☑	☐
					4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	☑	☐
					4.4	Protected areas	☑	☐
					4.4.2	Establishment	☑	☐
					4.4.3	Management	☑	☐

Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use	**Subsistence**		**National**	**International**		***Other purpose:***
Primary forms removed from the wild	**100%**	**>75%**	**51-75%**	**26-50%**	**<25%**	***Other forms removed from the wild:***
Source of specimens in commercial trade	**100%**	**>75%**	**51-75%**	**26-50%**	**<25%**	***Other source of specimens:***

Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:

Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:

CITES:

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: Stable **Date of Assessment:** 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Juan Pleguezuelos, Paulo Sá-Sousa, Valentin Pérez-Mellado, Rafael Marquez, Marc Cheylan, Claudia Corti

Notes on Red listing:

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