



Xenochrophis punctulatus, Spotted Keelback Water Snake

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Natricidae

Taxon Name: *Xenochrophis punctulatus* (Günther, 1858)

Synonym(s):

- *Fowlea peguensis*
- *Natrix punctulata*
- *Nerodia punctulata*
- *Tropidonotus punctulatus*

Common Name(s):

- English: Spotted Keelback Water Snake

Taxonomic Notes:

This species was formerly placed in the genus *Natrix*.

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2012

Date Assessed: July 1, 2009

Justification:

Xenochrophis punctulatus is listed as Least Concern, as it has a large extent of occurrence and is reported to be common, despite habitat loss and degradation. This species is abundant in areas of suitable habitat and populations are believed to be stable. However, more research is needed to study how is habitat loss impacting known populations as mangroves are intensively used by people. Research into population trends in this species is strongly recommended.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2010 – Least Concern (LC)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species has been recorded from Myanmar and adjacent western Thailand (Smith 1943; Pauwels *et al.* 2001, 2004). The record from Thailand, from Mae Hong Son Province (Pauwels *et al.* 2001), is however doubtful as this tidal species has only definitively been recorded in tidal palm forests along the coast of Myanmar.

Country Occurrence:

Native: Myanmar

Distribution Map



Xenochrophis punctulatus

Range
■ Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
 IUCN

NE DU LC > NT VU EM CR EW EX



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or approval by IUCN.

Population

This species can be common in suitable habitat (G. Zug and O. Pauwels pers. comms. 2010).

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is a brackish water dweller that inhabits tidal forests (G. Zug and O. Pauwels pers. comm. 2010, Pauwels *et al.* 2004).

Systems: Freshwater, Marine

Use and Trade

There are no reports of this species being utilised.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

The habitat of this species is threatened by deforestation due to the encroachment of agriculture, illegal logging, and general over-exploitation of mangrove forest resources by a growing human population. People in this area rely heavily on mangrove resources and this may be reducing suitable habitat and therefore affecting the known populations.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

There are no known species-specific conservation measures in place, however it may occur in protected areas within its range. Research into the population of this species and its ability to withstand disturbance to its mangrove habitat should be undertaken, as this snake may be susceptible to significant population declines if pressures on its mangrove habitat increase in the future.

Credits

Assessor(s): Wogan, G. & Pauwels, O.S.G.

Reviewer(s): Bowles, P. & Cox, N.A.

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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?
1. Forest -> 1.7. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Mangrove Vegetation Above High Tide Level	-	Suitable	Yes

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.2. Small-holder farming	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.3. Logging & wood harvesting -> 5.3.3. Unintentional effects: (subsistence/small scale)	Ongoing	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

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

Population
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes

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