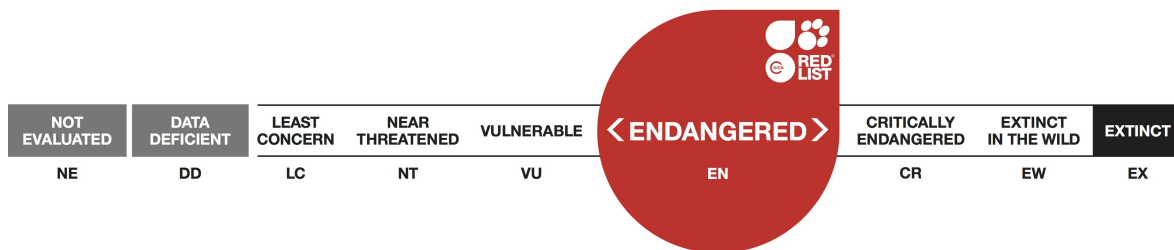


Mellissius adumbratus, Shadowy Chafer

Assessment by: Pryce, D. & White, L.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Coleoptera	Scarabaeidae

Taxon Name: *Mellissius adumbratus* Wollaston, 1869

Common Name(s):

- English: Shadowy Chafer

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Endangered B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii) [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2014

Date Assessed: August 22, 2014

Justification:

This species is only known from four locations at one of which it was only seen in 1931 (Decelle 1972; Ashmole and Ashmole 2003; Mendel, Ashmole and Ashmole 2008); the population appears to be relatively large and stable at two of these. Construction of the new airport at Prosperous Bay Plain has impacted the easternmost sites at this location and several further sites along the Southern Ridge. Remediation work is planned at the Southern Ridge sites but construction of the airport access road will result in the permanent loss of some habitat and potential further fragmentation. This species has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 43 km² and an area of occupancy (AOO) of 20 km². It is assessed as Endangered.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

Endemic to St Helena island, in the South Atlantic Ocean, where it is found in the east and south of the island.

Country Occurrence:

Native: Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha (Saint Helena (main island))

Distribution Map



Mellissius adumbratus

Range

■ Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
St Helena National Trust



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 currently known from four locations where it is apparently fairly common at three of them. At the Millennium Forest and Blue Point, when planting at the time of year when grubs are easily detectable, one is found in about every tenth tree-planting hole (J. Courtis pers. comm. 2014) While live adults are almost never found, dead specimens are easily located amongst Creeper (*Carpobrotus edulis* (L.) N.E. Br) at the end of the breeding season.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is found in degraded arid areas in the east and south of the island in where Creeper (*Carpobrotus edulis* (L.) N.E. Br) and Common Saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata* R. Br.) are often the dominant vegetation. Endemic Scrubwood (*Commidendrum rugosum* (Dryland) DC.) bushes are present at two of the locations. The larvae are subterranean where they presumably feed on the roots of plants. Adults are almost never encountered alive so are presumably nocturnal; dead adults persist for some time and the species can be mapped by looking for their dried remains.

Systems: Terrestrial

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Habitat destruction has occurred at one of its locations due to construction of the new airport.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Any research and monitoring of this species would be of value. Of critical importance is the continued expansion and linking of habitat fragments as well as removal of invasive non-native species where this is possible.

Credits

Assessor(s): Pryce, D. & White, L.

Reviewer(s): Gerlach, J.

Bibliography

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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?
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	Resident	Suitable	No
8. Desert -> 8.2. Desert - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.2. Commercial & industrial areas	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Action Recovery plan: No
Systematic monitoring scheme: No
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: No
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Actions Needed
2. Land/water management -> 2.1. Site/area management
2. Land/water management -> 2.2. Invasive/problematic species control

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
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km ²): 20
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 43
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Number of Locations: 4
Extreme fluctuations in the number of locations: No
Lower elevation limit (m): 297
Upper elevation limit (m): 518
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes

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