

Scaptomyza horaeoptera, Beautiful-winged Fruit Fly

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Citation: Pryce, D. & White, L. 2014. *Scaptomyza horaeoptera*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2014*: e.T64303313A64303318. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2014-3.RLTS.T64303313A64303318.en>

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Diptera	Drosophilidae

Taxon Name: *Scaptomyza horaeoptera* Tsacas & Cogan, 1977

Common Name(s):

- English: Beautiful-winged Fruit Fly

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2014

Date Assessed: August 22, 2014

Justification:

This species is currently known from eight locations, all but one of these being in areas with endemic vegetation such as 'Cabbage Tree' woodland (family Asteracea) and Tree Fern (*Dicksonia arborescens* L'Hér.) Thicket (Mendel, Ashmole and Ashmole 2008). In the 1960s it was found at two further locations away from endemic vegetation (Tsacas and Cogan 1977). The precise ecology of the species is unknown and there is a decline in the quality of endemic habitat across the range of the species due to the spread of alien invasive plant and animal species (e.g. *Phormium tenax* J.R. Forst. & G. Forst. and Formicidae). It has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 24 km² and an area of occupancy (AOO) of 20 km². Therefore, it is assessed as Vulnerable.

Geographic Range

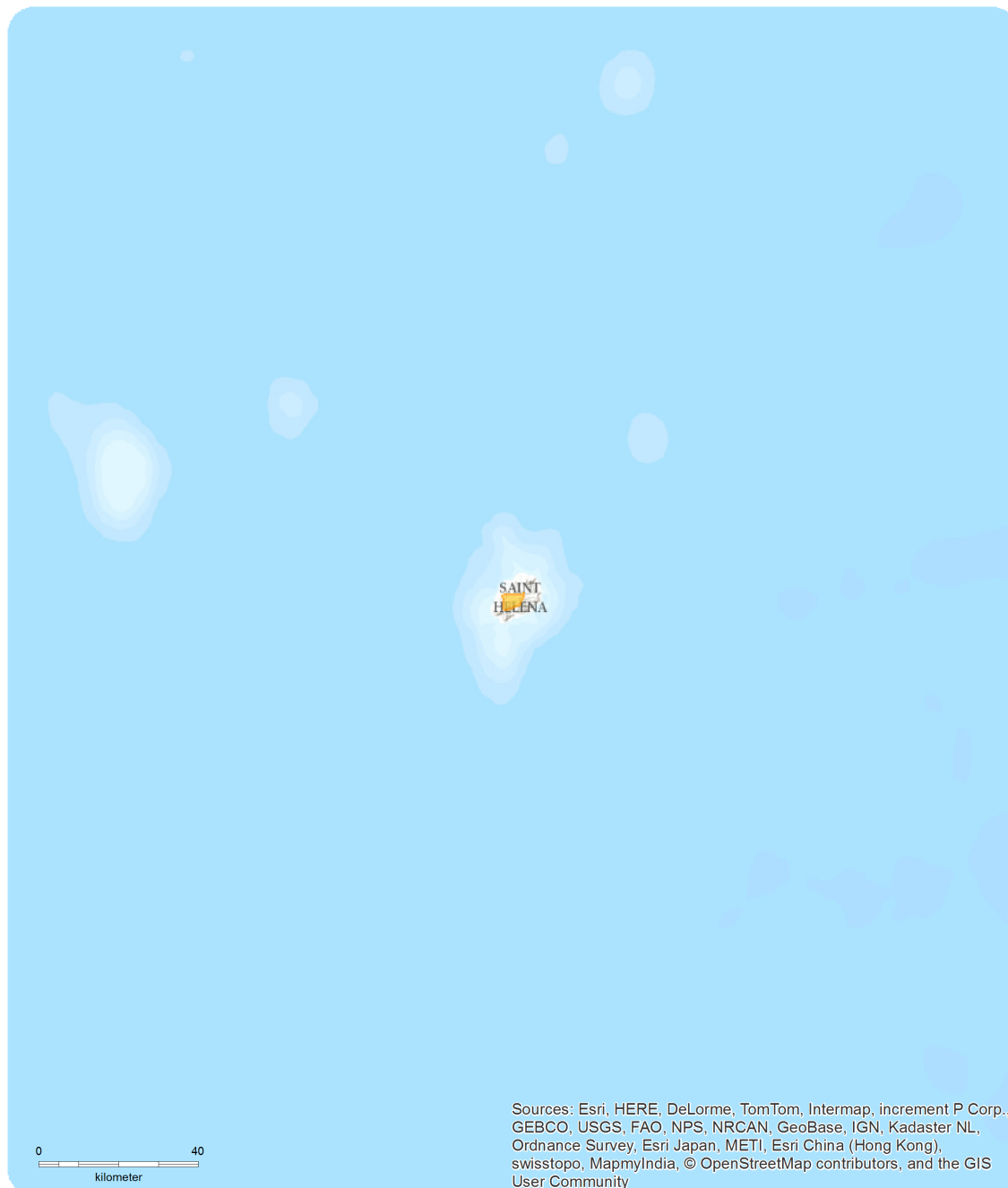
Range Description:

Endemic to the island of St Helena where it is restricted to the 'Green Heartland' of the island (Tsacas and Cogan 1977; Mendel, Ashmole and Ashmole 2008).

Country Occurrence:

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

Distribution Map

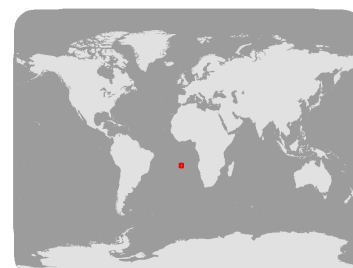


Scaptomyza horaeoptera

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

As an endemic species that has been found most often in areas of endemic vegetation, it is likely to have a preference for endemic plants as a food source, although there is currently no specific evidence for this. The quality of endemic habitat across its range is currently declining through invasion by alien plant species (*e.g. Phormium tenax* J.R. Forst. & G. Forst). There is also increasing pressure from invasive non-native predatory animal species (*e.g. Formicidae*); it is therefore inferred that the species is declining.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species seems to have a preference for woodland habitat where it is likely to be a stem or leaf miner in an unknown range of species; it probably has a preference for endemic or indigenous plants which are present at the majority of sites where it has been found. It appears to have a preference for damper areas and could therefore be vulnerable to drought.

Systems: Terrestrial

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

There has been a general decline in the quality of endemic plant habitat that is present at most of the sites where this species has been found; there has also been an increase in the number of invasive non-native predators (*e.g. Formicidae*) across all habitats. Global warming is also a potential threat to habitat quality as this appears to be a species that prefers damper areas.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Determining the precise ecology of this species should be considered a priority as until this is known there is little that can be done to conserve it; indeed any research and monitoring of this species would be of value.

Credits

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

Reviewer(s): Gerlach, J.

Bibliography

IUCN. 2014. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.3. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 13 November 2014).

Mendel, H., Ashmole, N.P., Ashmole, M.J. and Thorpe, E.A. 2008. Invertebrates of the Central Peaks and Peak Dale, St Helena. Commissioned by the St Helena National Trust, Jamestown, St Helena.

Tsacas, L. and Cogan, B.H. 1977. Drosophilidae. In: Basilewsky, P. (Ed.). La faune terrestre de l'île de Sainte-Hélène. Troisième partie. *Annales du Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Zoologie*. 215: 82-95.

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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 -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
8. Invasive & other problematic species & genes -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species -> 8.1.1. Unspecified species	Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	Slow, significant declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
8. Invasive & other problematic species & genes -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species -> 8.1.2. Named species	Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	Slow, significant declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.1. Habitat shifting & alteration	Future	Whole (>90%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	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): 24
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Number of Locations: 8
Continuing decline in number of locations: No
Extreme fluctuations in the number of locations: No
Lower elevation limit (m): 488
Upper elevation limit (m): 823
Population
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes

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