

Ameles gracilis, Delicate Dwarf Mantis

Assessment by: Battiston, R., Amerini, R., Garcia Becerra, R. & Oromi, P.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Mantodea	Mantidae

Taxon Name: *Ameles gracilis* (Brulle, 1838)

Synonym(s):

- *Mantis gracilis* Brullé, 1838

Common Name(s):

- English: Delicate Dwarf Mantis

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Vulnerable B2ab(iii,iv,v) [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2016

Date Assessed: June 20, 2015

Justification:

Ameles gracilis is an endemic mantid of the Canary Islands. It is present on three islands and it is only found in shrubland and uncultivated open areas. At present most of its ecology is unknown and the species taxonomy needs to be better defined (Becerra and Oromi 1999, Becerra *et al.* 2001, Wieland *et al.* 2014). The species has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of *ca.* 7,700 km², an area of occupancy (AOO) of 232-1,500 km², and a severely fragmented population. It is generally rare to encounter and a continuing decline in the number of subpopulations, number of mature individuals and the extent and quality of habitat is inferred where it is not protected. Therefore, the species is assessed as Vulnerable (VU), but it is very close to the Endangered category as its area of occupancy (AOO) is insufficiently known. Further updates need to be done in the near future.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

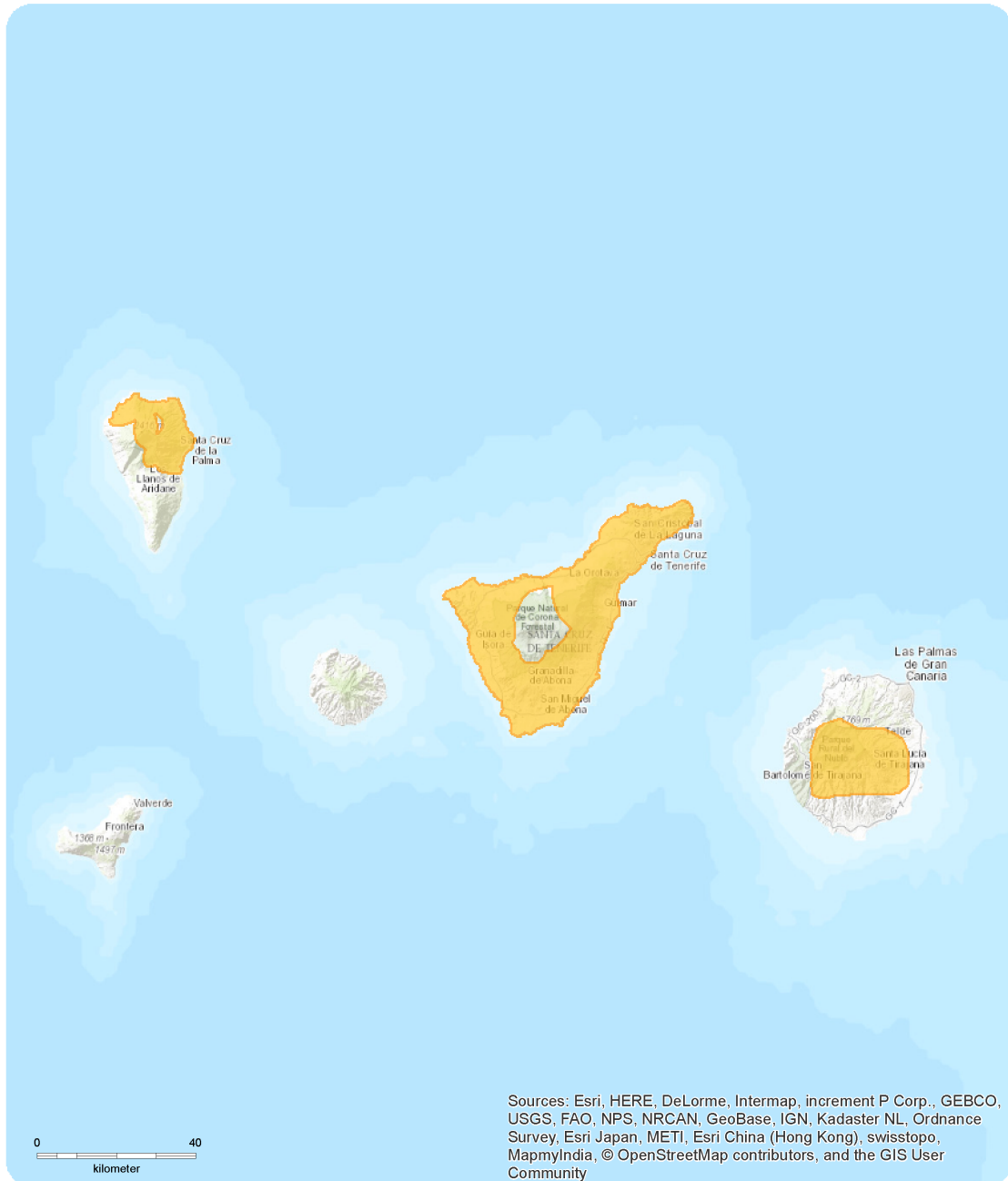
A. gracilis is an endemic species of the Canary Islands, being found on the islands of La Palma, Tenerife and Gran Canaria (Becerra *et al.* 2001). The measured area of occupancy (AOO) is 232 km² with an upper estimate of 1,500 km² and the estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) is *ca.* 7,700 km².

Country Occurrence:

Native: Spain (Canary Is.)

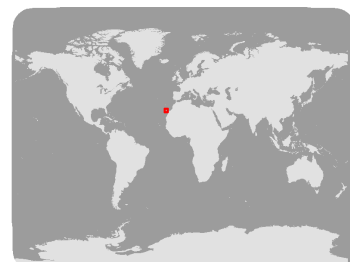
Distribution Map

Ameles gracilis



Range
■ Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
 Rachele Amerini



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



Population

The population trend is unknown, however this species is rare and it is inferred that there is a continuing decline in the number of mature individuals and number of subpopulations in some localities. Distribution records are based on Garcia Becerra *et al.* (2001) and unpublished records from the assessors. Recent observations from the assessors suggest that there may be a population decline on La Palma, but more research is needed.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is found in open areas with scrub vegetation and also pastures, usually near laurel and pine forests (Becerra *et al.* 2001).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

This species is not utilized.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Threats to this species are not known in detail. However, considering the small distribution of the species, habitat destruction may be a serious threat. Local changes in the land use and a marked increase of overbuilding are contributing to the destruction of the natural habitats of this species and their real impact needs to be studied in more detail. The use of pesticides may also be a threat that may have a direct influence on this species or indirect by affecting its food source. There is a need for more research on the threats.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species benefits indirectly by conservation in some protected areas of the Canary Islands Network for Protected Natural Areas, where the natural habitat is preserved. Most of the ecology of this species is unknown and research is needed. Taxonomy of the subfamily Amelinae is also problematic and needs to be solved with further morphological and molecular research (Wieland *et al.* 2014).

Credits

Assessor(s): Battiston, R., Amerini, R., Garcia Becerra, R. & Oromi, P.

Reviewer(s): Bushell, M. & Hochkirch, A.

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 -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.1. Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Causing/could cause fluctuations	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.4. Scale Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Causing/could cause fluctuations	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
9. Pollution -> 9.3. Agricultural & forestry effluents -> 9.3.3. Herbicides and pesticides	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Unknown	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

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: Yes, over part of range
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Actions Needed
1. Land/water protection -> 1.2. Resource & habitat protection

Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.1. Taxonomy
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
3. Monitoring -> 3.4. Habitat trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km ²): 232-1500,500-1500
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 7692
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 1000
Population
Continuing decline of mature individuals: Yes
Population severely fragmented: Yes
Continuing decline in subpopulations: Yes
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes
Movement patterns: Not a Migrant

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