

Ameles limbata, Fringed Dwarf Mantis

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Mantodea	Mantidae

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

Synonym(s):

- *Mantis limbata* Brullé, 1838

Common Name(s):

- English: Fringed 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 limbata is an endemic mantid of the Canary Islands. It is present on two islands and 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 & Oromi, 1999; Becerra *et al.* 2001, Wieland *et al.* 2014). The species has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of ca. 6,600 km², an area of occupancy (AOO) of 472-1,900 km² and a severely fragmented population. It is generally rare and a continuing decline in the number of subpopulations, number of mature individuals and in the extent and quality of habitat is inferred for unprotected areas. Therefore the species is assessed as Vulnerable (VU), but it is close to the Endangered category and further research needs to be done in the near future.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

Ameles limbata is an endemic species of the Canary Islands, being present on the island of Tenerife and La Palma (Becerra *et al.* 2001). The measured area of occupancy (AOO) is 448 km² with an upper estimate of 1,900 km². The extent of occurrence (EOO) is ca. 6,600 km².

Country Occurrence:

Native: Spain (Canary Is.)

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 Distribution records are based on Garcia Becerra *et al.* (2001) and unpublished records from the assessors.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 subpopulation decline on La Palma, but more data need to be collected.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Ameles limbata lives from coastal areas to the mountains in almost any type of vegetation but usually prefers clearings or open spaces to dense forest. It has not been found on the summit of the Teide mountain on Tenerife but has been recorded at 2,100 m asl on the island of La Palma, at the top of a ravine. It is often found on the plant *Bencomia exstipulata* Svent (Becerra *et al.* 2001).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

This species is not utilized.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Threats for 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 even if their real impact needs to be studied in detail. The use of pesticides may also be a threat that has a direct influence on this species or indirect, degrading its ecosystem. There is a need for more research on the threats.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species benefits indirectly from 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. The 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

García Becerra, R., de la Nuez Torres, R.I. and Pérez Sánchez, J.M. 2001. Mantis y cucarachas de Canarias. *Servicio de publicaciones de la Caja General de Ahorros de Canarias* 252: 160.

IUCN. 2016. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2016-1. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 30 June 2016).

Wieland, F., Schütte, K., and Goldberg, J. 2014. A review of the research on Canary Islands praying mantises (Mantodea). *Zootaxa* 3797: 78-102.

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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	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	Resident	Suitable	-
0. Root -> 6. Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	Resident	Marginal	-

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%)	Causing/could cause fluctuations	Low impact: 5
	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 Actions in Place

Conservation sites identified: Yes, over part of range
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Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Actions Needed

1. Land/water protection -> 1.2. Resource & habitat protection
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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
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1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
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1. Research -> 1.5. Threats

3. Monitoring -> 3.4. Habitat trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution

Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km ²): 472-1900,500-1900

Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 6609

Lower elevation limit (m): 0

Upper elevation limit (m): 2100

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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