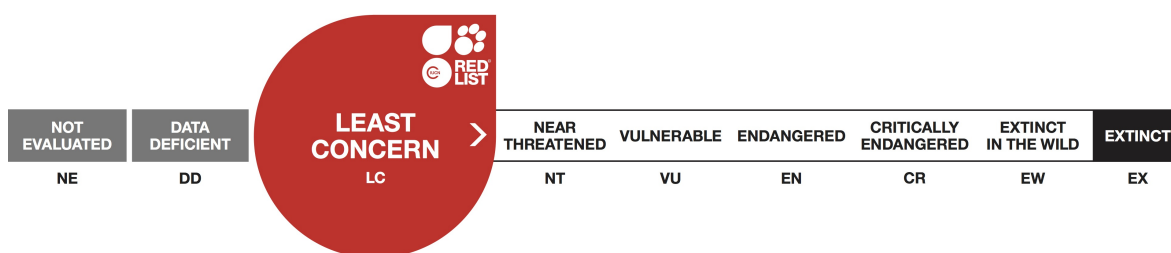


Mesapamea storai, Owlet Moth

Assessment by: Vieira, V. & Borges, P.A.V.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Lepidoptera	Noctuidae

Taxon Name: *Mesapamea storai* (Rebel, 1940)

Synonym(s):

- *Hadena storai* Rebel, 1940
- *Mesapamea acorina* Pinker, 1969
- *Mesapamea acorina strigata* Pinker, 1969

Common Name(s):

- English: Owlet Moth, Underwing Moth

Taxonomic Source(s):

De Jong, Y., Verbeek, M., Michelsen, V., Bjørn, P.P., Los, W., Steeman, F., Bailly, N., Basire, C., Chylarecki, P., Stloukal, E., Hagedorn, G., Wetzels, F.T., Glöckler, F., Kroupa, A., Korb, G., Hoffmann, A., Häuser, C., Kohlbecker, A., Müller, A., Güntsch, A., Stoev, P. and Penev, L. 2014. Fauna Europaea – all European animal species on the web. *Biodiversity Data Journal* 2: e4034. DOI: 10.3897/BDJ.2.e4034.

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2018

Date Assessed: March 16, 2017

Justification:

Mesapamea storai is an endemic species present in Corvo, Flores, Faial, Pico, Graciosa, S. Jorge, Terceira and S. Miguel islands (Azores, Portugal) (Borges *et al.* 2010). It has a relatively small area of occupancy (AOO = 248 km²) and a large extent of occurrence (EOO = ca 28,000 km²). The species can be found in native forest fragments, but also in the habitats which are dominated by forest plantations and patches of semi-natural and exotic vegetation, being known from twelve Natural Forest Reserves. Based on Ferreira *et al.* (2016) the habitat will decline as a consequence of climate change. The species is assessed as Least Concern (LC) due to the widespread distribution and high abundance in several habitats, having also a high range of altitude occupancy (10-1000 m).

Geographic Range

Range Description:

Mesapamea storai is an endemic species present in Corvo, Flores, Faial, Pico, Graciosa, S. Jorge, Terceira and S. Miguel islands (Azores, Portugal) (Borges *et al.* 2010), known from native forest but also in habitats located in and around exotic coniferous forests (e.g. in Terceira island above 350 m Asl) (Vieira *et al.* 1998), being known from twelve Natural Forest Reserves: Caldeiras Funda e Rasa and Morro Alto e Pico da Sé (Flores); Caldeira do Faial and Cabeço do Fogo (Faial); Pico Pinheiro and Topo (S. Jorge);

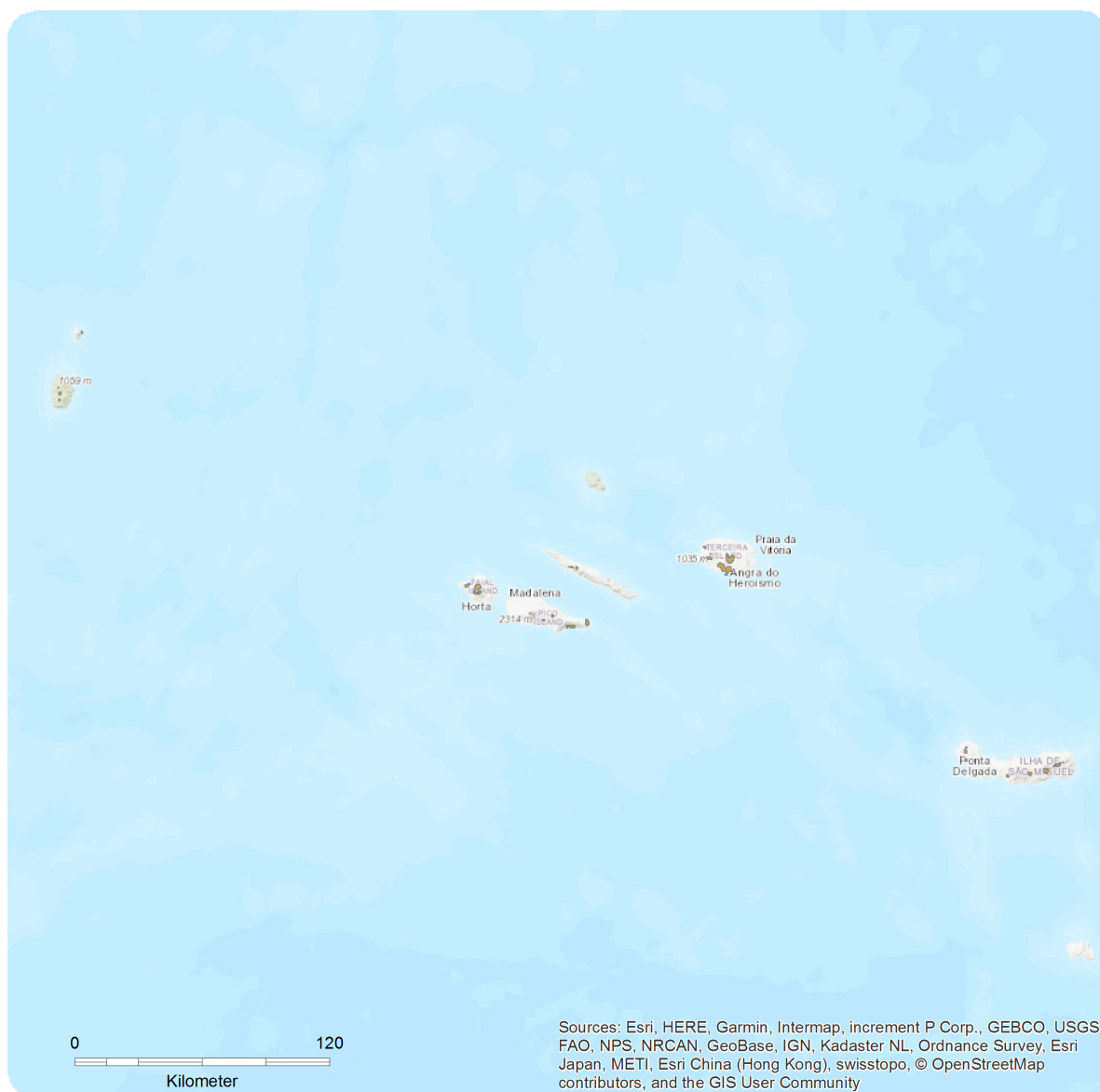
Biscoito da Ferraria, Caldeira Guilherme Moniz, Caldeira Sta. Bárbara e Mistérios Negros and Terra Brava (Terceira); Graminhais and Pico da Vara (S. Miguel). The extent of occurrence (EOO) is *ca* 28,000 km² and the maximum estimated area of occupancy (AOO) is 248 km².

Country Occurrence:

Native: Portugal (Azores)

Distribution Map

Mesapamea storai



Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:

Paulo Borges



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 common in most Azorean islands except Santa Maria, being rare in terms of abundance at lower elevations (e.g., in Terceira island) (Vieira *et al.* 1998), and abundant at medium and high elevations, where it occurs mostly in native vegetation (*Juniperus brevifolia* and *Laurus azorica* forests), despite it can also occurs in exotic coniferous forests. This species presents a stable population.

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Mesapamea storai occurs at medium and high elevations in the Azorean islands except Santa Maria (above 350 m Asl), preferably associated with native grasses (e.g. *Holcus azoricus*; Poaceae) of *Juniperus brevifolia* woodland forests as well as habitats located in and around exotic coniferous forests. The larvae develops from autumn to spring, and the moths fly readily to light from March to November (Vieira *et al.* 1998). Possibly it is a specialist herbivore, and has about three generations per year. Altitudinal range: 10-1000 m.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

The species is not utilised.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

In the past, the species has probably strongly declined due to changes in habitat size and quality, mostly the creation of pastures (Triantis *et al.* 2010). Currently invasive plants *Pittosporum undulatum* and *Hedychium gardnerianum* are changing some of the areas and decreasing the quality of the habitat. These changes are decreasing the relative cover of endemic plants and changing the soil cover (decreasing the cover of bryophytes and ferns). Based on Ferreira *et al.* (2016) the habitat will further decline as a consequence of climate change (increasing number of droughts and habitat shifting & alteration).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

The species is not protected by regional law. Its habitat is in regionally protected areas (Natural Parks of Corvo, Faial, Flores, Graciosa, Pico, S. Jorge, Terceira and S. Miguel). Further research is needed into its ecology and life history in order to learn about the ecological requirements of the species and the feeding substrate of the larva, and find extant specimens. Degraded habitats should be restored and a strategy needs to be developed to address the future threat by climate change. It is necessary a monitoring plan for the invertebrate community in the habitat in order to contribute to the conservation of this species. A habitat management plan is needed and anticipated to be developed during the coming years. Monitoring every ten years using the BALA protocol will inform about habitat quality (see e.g. Gaspar *et al.* 2010).

Credits

Assessor(s): Vieira, V. & Borges, P.A.V.

Reviewer(s): Danielczak, A.

Contributor(s): Nunes, R. & Lamelas-López, L.

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Vieira, V. & Borges, P.A.V. 2018. *Mesapamea storai*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2018: e.T97237686A99166894. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2018-1.RLTS.T97237686A99166894.en>

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External Resources

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Appendix

Habitats

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

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.4. Shrubland - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	Yes
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	Resident	Suitable	Yes
0. Root -> 16. Introduced vegetation	Resident	Marginal	-

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
10. Geological events -> 10.1. Volcanoes	Future	Whole (>90%)	Very rapid declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.1. Habitat shifting & alteration	Future	Whole (>90%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.2. Droughts	Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	Slow, significant declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.2. Wood & pulp plantations -> 2.2.1. Small-holder plantations	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 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases -> 8.1.2. Named species (Pittosporum undulatum)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases -> 8.1.2. Named species (Hedychium gardnerianum)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 7

Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance
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Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Systematic monitoring scheme: Yes
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over part of range
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
Percentage of population protected by PAs (0-100): 81-90

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
2. Land/water management -> 2.3. Habitat & natural process restoration
4. Education & awareness -> 4.1. Formal education
4. Education & awareness -> 4.3. Awareness & communications
5. Law & policy -> 5.4. Compliance and enforcement -> 5.4.3. Sub-national level

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
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends
3. Monitoring -> 3.4. Habitat trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km ²): 248
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): Unknown
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 28000
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): Unknown
Number of Locations: 24
Continuing decline in number of locations: Yes
Extreme fluctuations in the number of locations: Unknown
Lower elevation limit (m): 10
Upper elevation limit (m): 1000
Population
Continuing decline of mature individuals: No
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes
Generation Length (years): 0.5
Movement patterns: Not a Migrant

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