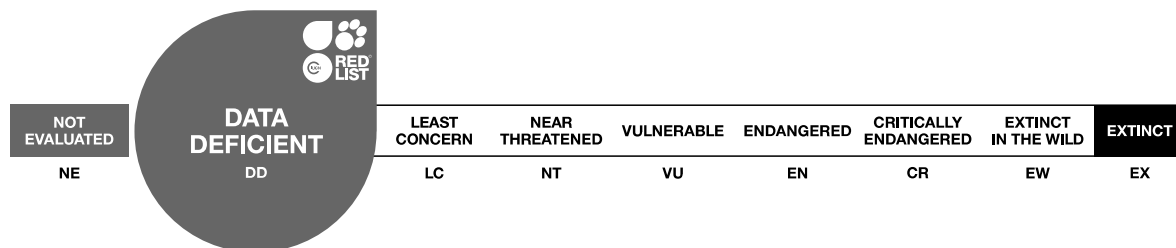


Steganacarus insulanus

Assessment by: Nunes, R. & Borges, P.A.V.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Arthropoda	Arachnida	Oribatida	Phthiracaridae

Scientific Name: *Steganacarus insulanus* Pérez-Íñigo & Pérez-Íñigo, 1996

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Data Deficient [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2021

Date Assessed: March 31, 2018

Justification:

Steganacarus insulanus is an endemic oribatid mite species of S. Miguel island (Azores, Portugal). From the description of this species, it has a very small Extent of Occurrence (4 km²) and Area of Occupancy (4 km²). However, these are likely to be underestimates, as this species probably has a wider distribution through the soil component of the island. The area where it was collected is being degraded by invasive plant species, and land-use changes are likely another of the main current and future threats. Conservation of native habitats and invasive species control, namely *Hedychium gardnerianum* and *Clethra arborea* could potentially aid this species' conservation. Further research is needed into its population, distribution, threats, ecology and life history. Based upon the lack of recent data regarding this species' population, distribution, threats and ecology, this species is assessed as Data Deficient (DD).

Geographic Range

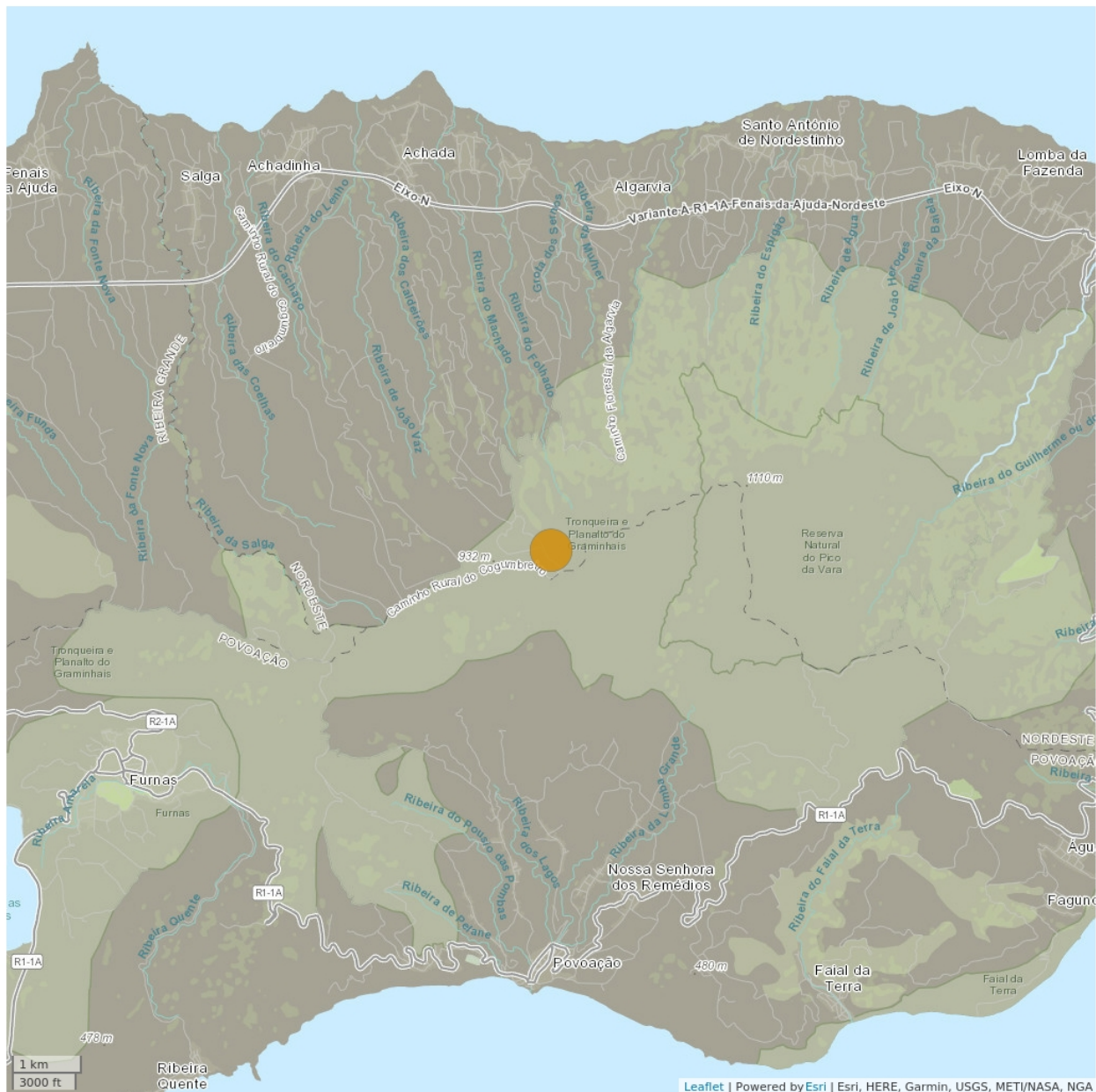
Range Description:

Steganacarus insulanus is an endemic oribatid mite species of S. Miguel island (Azores, Portugal) (Borges *et al.* 2010), described from the Nature Reserve of Graminhais. From the species description, the Extent of Occurrence (EOO) would be ca. 4 km² and the Area of Occupancy (AOO) would be 4 km².

Country Occurrence:

Native, Extant (resident): Portugal (Azores)

Distribution Map

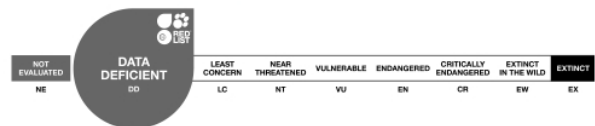


Legend

■ EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

Azorean Biodiversity Group 2018



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

Population

No current population size estimates exist for this species. As an oribatid mite, this species is likely common and widespread in the soil habitat.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

The ecology and traits of this species are unknown. Oribatid mites are associated with organic matter in most terrestrial ecosystems, being found throughout the soil profile, in surface litter, on grasses, shrubs or in the bark and leaves of trees, among other habitats. Oribatida are also one of the most numerically dominant arthropod groups in the organic horizons of most soils (Behan-Pelletier 1999). *Steganacarus insulanus* has been collected in native Laurisilva forest, from pitfall traps.

Systems: Terrestrial

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

A lack of information regarding the present range of this species precludes an assessment of potential threats. The area where this species was collected is being threatened by the spread of invasive plants (*Hedychium gardnerianum* and *Clethra arborea*), which are changing the habitat structure. Additionally, it can be assumed that this species will be affected by future habitat declines as a consequence of climate change (Ferreira *et al.*, 2016) and increased droughts. Other factors that affect habitat quality like land use changes, pesticides and nutrient loads might also affect this species.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

The species is not protected by regional law, but it has been collected in a regionally protected area (Natural Park of São Miguel). Land-use changes are likely one of the main current and future threats, and conservation of native habitats and invasive species control could potentially aid this species' conservation. Further research is needed into its population, distribution, threats, ecology and life history; and it is necessary to develop a monitoring plan for the invertebrate community in order to contribute to the conservation of this species.

Credits

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

Reviewer(s): Danielczak, A.

Authority/Authorities: IUCN SSC Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group

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Behan-Pelletier, V.M. 1999. Oribatid mite biodiversity in agroecosystems: role for bioindication. *Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment* 74(1-3): 411-423.

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Ferreira, M.T., Cardoso, P., Borges, P.A.V., Gabriel, R., Azevedo, E.B., Reis, F., Araújo, M.B. and Elias, R.B. 2016. Effects of climate change on the distribution of indigenous species in oceanic islands (Azores). *Climate Change* 138(3-4): 603-615.

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External Resources

For [Supplementary Material](#), and 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
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.2. Wood & pulp plantations -> 2.2.1. Small-holder plantations	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases -> 8.1.2. Named species (Clethra arborea)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects		
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases -> 8.1.2. Named species (Hedychium gardnerianum)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects		
9. Pollution -> 9.3. Agricultural & forestry effluents -> 9.3.1. Nutrient loads	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects		
9. Pollution -> 9.3. Agricultural & forestry effluents -> 9.3.3. Herbicides and pesticides	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.1. Habitat shifting & alteration	Future	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects		
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.2. Droughts	Future	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects		

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Action in Place
In-place research and monitoring
Action Recovery Plan: No
Systematic monitoring scheme: No
In-place land/water protection
Occurs in at least one protected area: Yes

Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Action 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

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
2. Conservation Planning -> 2.2. Area-based Management Plan
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends
3. Monitoring -> 3.4. Habitat trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km ²): 4
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): Unknown
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 4

Distribution
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): Unknown
Continuing decline in number of locations: Unknown
Extreme fluctuations in the number of locations: Unknown
Lower elevation limit (m): 925
Upper elevation limit (m): 975
Population
Continuing decline of mature individuals: Unknown
Extreme fluctuations: Unknown
Population severely fragmented: Unknown
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Unknown

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