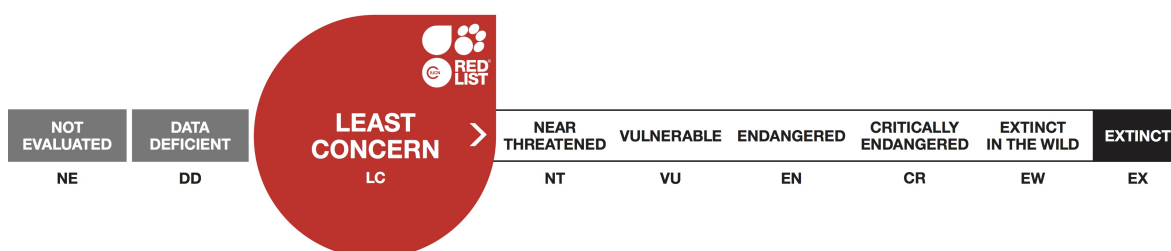


Ictonyx libycus, Libyan Striped Weasel

Assessment by: Ahmim, M. & Do Linh San, E.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

Citation: Ahmim, M. & Do Linh San, E. 2015. *Ictonyx libycus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015*: e.T41645A45212347. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T41645A45212347.en>

Copyright: © 2015 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Reproduction of this publication for resale, reposting or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission from the copyright holder. For further details see [Terms of Use](#).

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the [IUCN Global Species Programme](#), the [IUCN Species Survival Commission \(SSC\)](#) and [The IUCN Red List Partnership](#). The IUCN Red List Partners are: [BirdLife International](#); [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#); [Conservation International](#); [Microsoft](#); [NatureServe](#); [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#); [Sapienza University of Rome](#); [Texas A&M University](#); [Wildscreen](#); and [Zoological Society of London](#).

If you see any errors or have any questions or suggestions on what is shown in this document, please provide us with [feedback](#) so that we can correct or extend the information provided.

Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Mustelidae

Taxon Name: *Ictonyx libycus* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833)

Synonym(s):

- *Ictonyx libyca* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833) [orth. error]

Regional Assessments:

- [Mediterranean](#)

Common Name(s):

- English: Libyan Striped Weasel, Saharan Striped Polecat, Saharan Striped Weasel
- French: Zorille de Lybie

Taxonomic Notes:

This species was included in the genus *Poecilictis* by Cuzin (2013) following molecular studies by Koepfli *et al.* (2008) and Sato *et al.* (2012). However, it is treated here as congeneric with *Ictonyx* following Rosevear (1974), Niethammer (1987) and Wozencraft (2005). Note that *Ictonyx* is a masculine genus so this species is thus correctly *I. lybicus*, not *I. lybica*, as recently pointed out and used in Do Linh San *et al.* (2013).

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2015

Date Assessed: February 28, 2015

Justification:

This species is listed as Least Concern because it has a wide distribution range, is not uncommon, and there are no obvious major threats.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2015 – Least Concern (LC) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015.RLTS.T41645A82561597.en>

2008 – Least Concern (LC)

1996 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

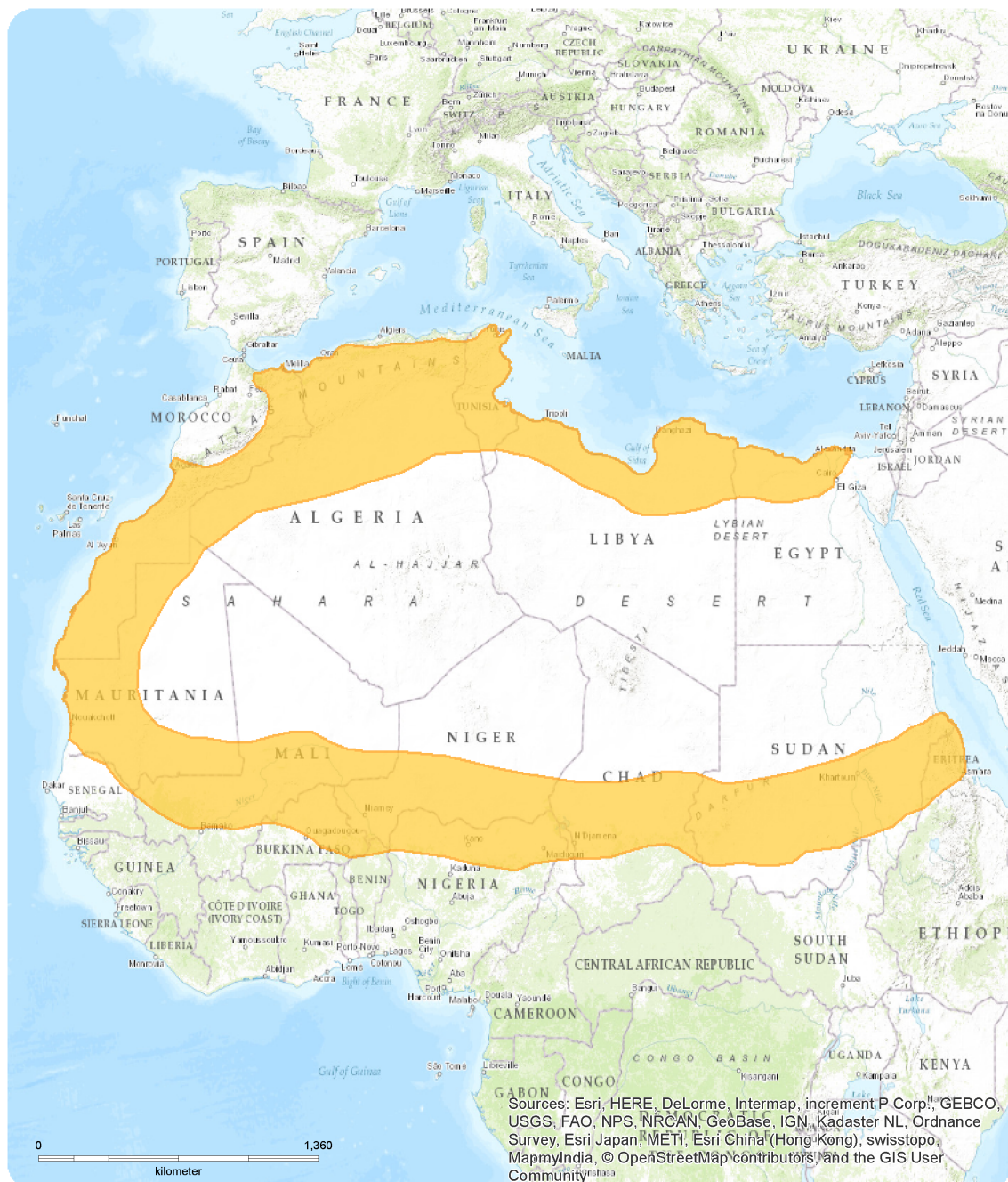
This species is present in northern Africa from Morocco and Senegal to Egypt and Eritrea. Its distribution

range is poorly known (Cuzin 2013) and apparently overlaps with that of the Zorilla (*Ictonyx striatus*) in some regions, such as in northern Nigeria and in central and eastern Sudan (Niethammer 1987).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Algeria; Burkina Faso; Chad; Egypt; Eritrea; Libya; Mali; Mauritania; Morocco; Niger; Nigeria; Senegal; Sudan; Tunisia; Western Sahara

Distribution Map

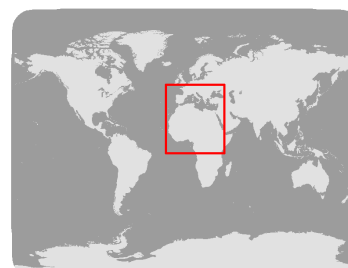


Ictonyx libycus

Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
International Union for the
Conservation of Nature



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



Population

There is limited reliable information on the population status of this species. Lybian Striped Weasels are not uncommon, and are reportedly abundant in coastal dunes, but numbers are probably subject to periodic fluctuations (Cuzin 2013).

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Lybian Striped Weasels are only found in desert fringes, mountains and oases, and sub-deserts. They favour sparse to very sparse vegetation cover, dominated by small bushes, except where they occur in cultivated areas (Cuzin 2013).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

Although their meat is not eaten, Lybian Striped Weasels are exploited in Tunisia in the belief that they are capable of increasing human male fertility, and there is even some international trade (e.g. from Tunisia into Libya: K. de Smet pers. comm. 2007).

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

There are no major threats, but Lybian Striped Weasels are exploited in Tunisia in the belief that they are capable of increasing human male fertility. Also, they may be subject to competition with Least Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*) in the most productive habitats (e.g., in Morocco: F. Cuzin pers. obs. 2007).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

It is protected by law in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia (K. de Smet pers. comm. 2007). It is presumably present in several protected areas across the range.

Credits

Assessor(s): Ahmim, M. & Do Linh San, E.

Reviewer(s): Duckworth, J.W. & Hoffmann, M.

Contributor(s): Hoffmann, M., Cuzin, F. & De Smet, K.

Bibliography

- Cuzin, F. 2013. *Poeciliotis libyca* Lybian Striped Weasel. In: J. Kingdon and M. Hoffmann (eds), *The Mammals of Africa. V. Carnivores, Pangolins, Equids and Rhinoceroses*, pp. 90-92. Bloomsbury, London, UK.
- Dao, V.H., Nguyen, T.D., Nguyen, T.H., Takata, Y., Sato, S., Kodama, M., and Fukuyo, Y. 2012. High individual variation in the toxicity of three species of marine puffer in Vietnam. *Coastal Marine Science* 35(1): 1-6.
- Do Linh San, E., Ferguson, A.W., Belant, J.L., Schipper, J., Hoffmann, M., Gaubert, P., Angelici, F.M. and Somers, M.J. 2013. Conservation status, distribution and species richness of small carnivores in Africa. *Small Carnivore Conservation* 48: 4-18.
- IUCN. 2015. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2015-4. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 19 November 2015).
- Koepfli, K.-P., Deer, K.A., Slater, G.J., Begg, C., Begg, K., Grassman, L., Lucherini, M., Veron, G. and Wayne, R.K. 2008. Multigene phylogeny of the Mustelidae: resolving relationships, tempo and biogeographic history of a mammalian adaptive radiation. *BMC Biology* 6: 10. doi:10.1186/1741-7007-6-10.
- Niethammer, J. 1987. Das Streifenwiesel (*Poeciliotis libyca*) in Sudan und seine Gesamtverbreitung. *Bonner Zoologische Beiträge* 38: 173-182.
- Rosevear, D.R. 1974. *The Carnivores of West Africa*. Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History), London, UK.
- Sato, J.J., Wolsan, M., Prevosti, F.J., Delia, G., Begg, C., Begg, K., Hosoda, T., Campbell, K.L. and Suzuki, H. 2012. Evolutionary and biogeographic history of weasel-like carnivorans (Musteloidea). *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution* 63: 745-757.
- Wozencraft, W.C. 2005. Order Carnivora. In: D.E. Wilson and D.M. Reeder (eds), *Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference. Third Edition*, pp. 532-628. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC, USA.

Citation

Ahmim, M. & Do Linh San, E. 2015. *Ictonyx libycus*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015*: e.T41645A45212347. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T41645A45212347.en>

Disclaimer

To make use of this information, please check the [Terms of Use](#).

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	-	Suitable	-
8. Desert -> 8.1. Desert - Hot	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	-	Marginal	-

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	No decline	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	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 Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

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

Additional Data Fields

Population
Population severely fragmented: No

Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 3

The IUCN Red List Partnership



The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the [IUCN Global Species Programme](#), the [IUCN Species Survival Commission \(SSC\)](#) and [The IUCN Red List Partnership](#).

The IUCN Red List Partners are: [BirdLife International](#); [Botanic Gardens Conservation International](#); [Conservation International](#); [Microsoft](#); [NatureServe](#); [Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#); [Sapienza University of Rome](#); [Texas A&M University](#); [Wildscreen](#); and [Zoological Society of London](#).