**Herpestes pulverulentus**, Cape Grey Mongoose

Assessment by: Do Linh San, E. & Cavallini, P.

View on [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)
Taxonomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animalia</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
<td>Mammalia</td>
<td>Carnivora</td>
<td>Herpestidae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Taxon Name:** *Herpestes pulverulentus* (Wagner, 1839)

**Synonym(s):**
- *Galerella pulverulenta* (Wagner, 1839)

**Common Name(s):**
- English: Cape Grey Mongoose, Small Grey Mongoose
- French: Mangouste grise du Cap

**Taxonomic Notes:**
Sometimes included in the genus *Galerella* (e.g., Wozencraft 1993, 2005; Veron *et al.* in press).

**Assessment Information**

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Least Concern [ver 3.1](http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T41600A45205999.en)

**Year Published:** 2015

**Date Assessed:** February 28, 2015

**Justification:**
This species is listed as Least Concern because it is common and adaptable, with a catholic diet, there are no major threats, and it is present in a number of protected areas in its range.

**Previously Published Red List Assessments**
- 1996 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

**Geographic Range**

**Range Description:**
This species is endemic to southern Africa, ranging throughout the Northern Cape (with one record from near the Botswana border), Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces of South Africa, with a marginal intrusion into southern Namibia, east to Lesotho and extreme western KwaZulu-Natal (Cavallini 2013). In 1990, an animal was trapped in Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga, 200 km north of known records in KwaZulu-Natal and Lesotho (Bronner 1990). It is present from sea level around the Western Cape to 1,900 m asl in KwaZulu-Natal (Cavallini 2013).

**Country Occurrence:**
Native: Lesotho; Namibia; South Africa
**Distribution Map**

![Distribution Map Image]

**Herpestes pulverulentus**

**Range**

- **Extant (resident)**

Compiled by:

- IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community


http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T41600A45205999.en
Population
It is common. Densities of up to 10 individuals/km$^2$ have been recorded in suitable habitat (Cavallini and Nel 1990a).

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)
This species has a wide habitat tolerance, although it is essentially found in Karoo and karroid bushveld and sclerophyllous scrub (Cavallini 2013). They are often associated with refuge areas, such as dense bushes and rocky outcrops, and avoid open fields with short vegetation (Cavallini and Nel 1990a, 1995; Do Linh San and Somers unpublished data). Some radio-tracked individuals used riverine Combretum forests as nocturnal shelter—sleeping in hollow Combretum caffrum trees—and as foraging grounds during the day (Do Linh San and Somers unpublished data). They are sometimes seen close to human settlements, foraging in gardens and sleeping in attics (E. Do Linh San pers. obs. 2006). They have a catholic diet, though their primary food is generally small mammals or insects (Cavallini and Nel 1990b, Do Linh San et al. unpublished data).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade
This species is not used.

Threats
There are no major threats to the species.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)
It occurs in a number of protected areas in its range, including the West Coast, Addo Elephant and Mountain Zebra National Parks, as well as the Great Fish River Reserve Complex.

Credits
Assessor(s): Do Linh San, E. & Cavallini, P.
Reviewer(s): Duckworth, J.W. & Hoffmann, M.
Contributor(s): Hoffmann, M.
Bibliography


Citation


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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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Suitability</th>
<th>Major Importance?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Shrubland -&gt; 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shrubland -&gt; 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Wetlands (inland) -&gt; 5.2. Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Artificial/Terrestrial -&gt; 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Additional Data Fields

Distribution

Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 1900

Population

Population severely fragmented: No

Habitats and Ecology

Generation Length (years): 3
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