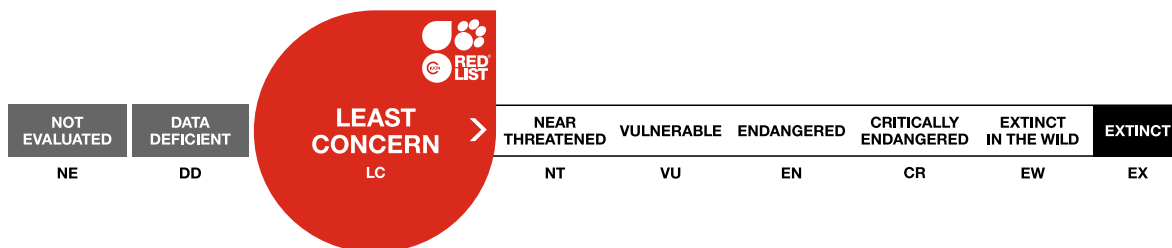


Namibiana occidentalis, Western Thread Snake

Assessment by: Bauer, A.M. & Becker, F.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Leptotyphlopidae

Scientific Name: *Namibiana occidentalis* (FitzSimons, 1962)

Synonym(s):

- *Leptotyphlops occidentalis* FitzSimons, 1962

Common Name(s):

- English: Western Thread Snake

Taxonomic Notes:

Molecular studies (Adalsteinsson *et al.* 2009) indicate deep genetic divergence between many leptotyphloid species. Members of the *Leptotyphlops rostratus* group (*sensu* Broadley and Broadley 1999, i.e. *L. rostratus*, *L. occidentalis*, *L. gracilior*, *L. labialis*, *L. latifrons*) have been placed in the new genus *Namibiana*.

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2020

Date Assessed: October 24, 2019

Justification:

This species is broadly distributed (the extent of occurrence (EOO) is much greater than the threshold for Vulnerable), common, not declining, and not subject to any known widespread threats. This species is therefore assessed as Least Concern.

Geographic Range

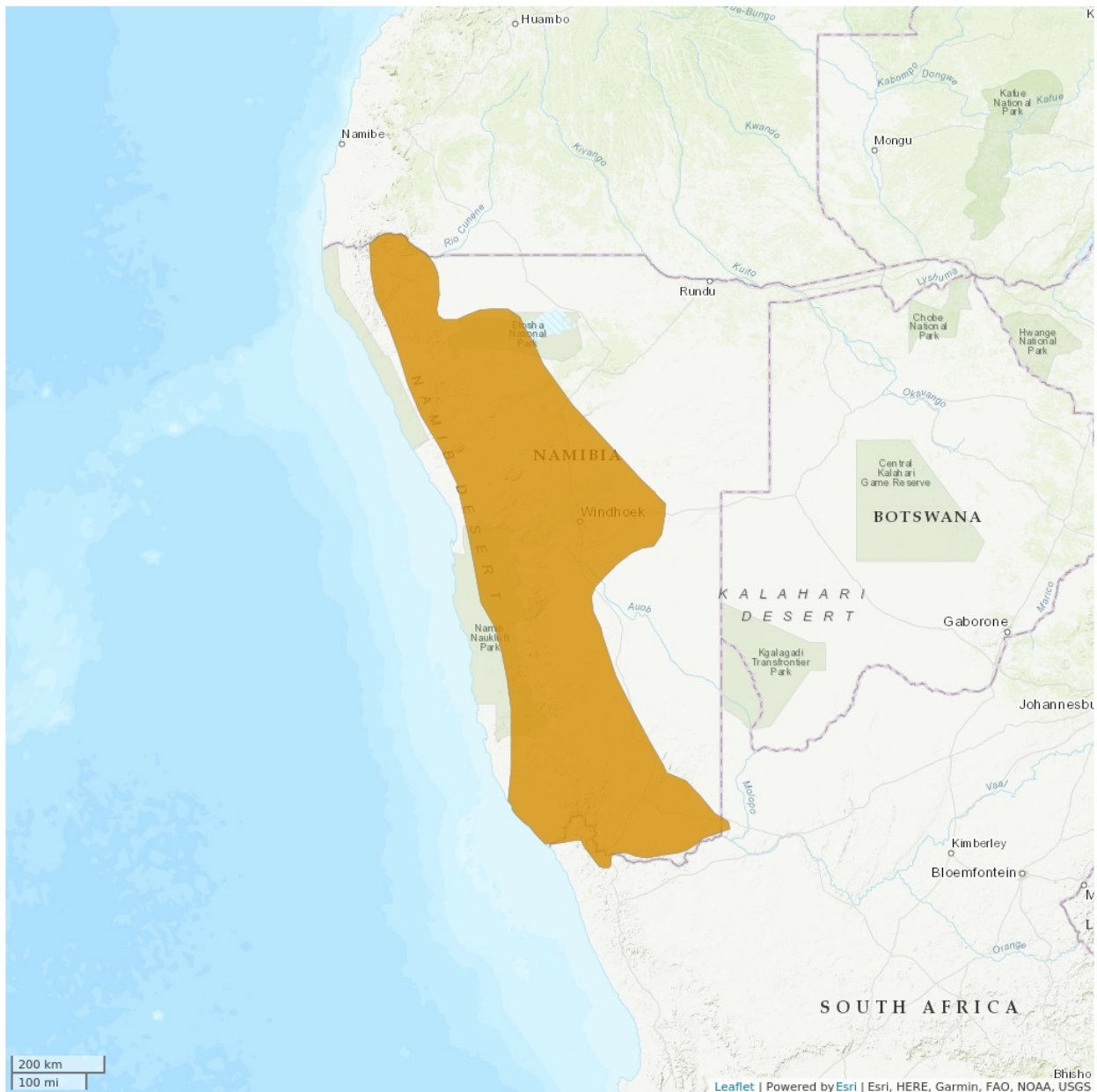
Range Description:

This species occurs in western Namibia and peripherally in adjacent Northern Cape Province, South Africa (Branch 1998, Broadley and Broadley 1999, Bates *em style="color: rgb(0, 0, 0); font-family: "Times New Roman"; font-size: medium; font-variant-ligatures: normal; font-variant-caps: normal; font-weight: 400; letter-spacing: normal; orphans: 2; text-align: start; text-indent: 0px; text-transform: none; white-space: normal; widows: 2; word-spacing: 0px; -webkit-text-stroke-width: 0px; text-decoration-style: initial; text-decoration-color: initial;">et al.* 2014). The elevational range is 50-1,500 m.

Country Occurrence:

Native, Extant (resident): Namibia; South Africa (Northern Cape Province)

Distribution Map



Legend

EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) 2019



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 uncommonly encountered due to its fossorial habits (but probably common in appropriate habitat), and the population is presumed stable due to a lack of disturbance to its habitat.

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This tiny burrowing snake is associated with a variety of substrates in desert and arid savanna (Branch 1998).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade (see Appendix for additional information)

There is no use or trade in this species.

Threats

There are no obvious relevant threats. The species is widespread over an area that has low human population densities and is generally too arid for intensive agriculture.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species has been recorded from Namib-Naukluft and Sperrgebiet National Parks (Namibia) and the /Ai/Ais-Richtersveld Transfrontier Park in Namibia and South Africa. No other conservation measures are needed.

Credits

Assessor(s): Bauer, A.M. & Becker, F.

Reviewer(s): Cox, N.A.

Facilitator(s) and Compiler(s): Cox, N.A. & Young, B.E.

Partner(s) and Institution(s): NatureServe

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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?
2. Savanna -> 2.1. Savanna - Dry	Resident	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	Yes
8. Desert -> 8.3. Desert - Cold	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Action in Place
In-place land/water protection
Occurs in at least one protected area: Yes

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 50
Upper elevation limit (m): 1,500

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