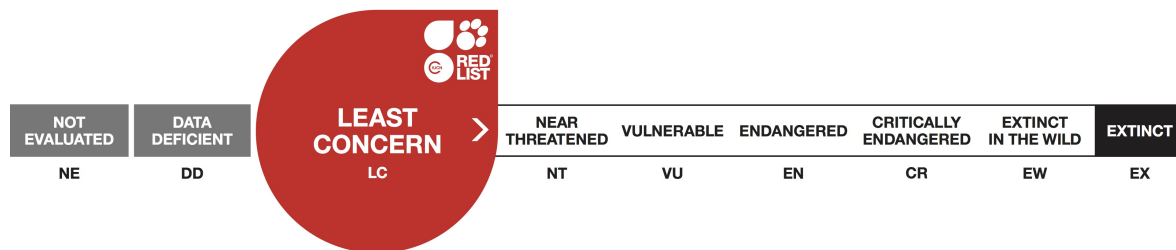


Acrochordus javanicus, Elephant Trunk Snake

Assessment by: Sanders, K., Grismer, L. & Chan-Ard, T.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Acrochordidae

Taxon Name: *Acrochordus javanicus* Hornstedt, 1787

Common Name(s):

- English: Elephant Trunk Snake, Elephant's Trunk Snake, Javan File Snake, Javan Wart Snake

Taxonomic Notes:

Independent molecular markers suggest *A. javanicus* includes two species: the first occurring in Thailand, West and East Malaysia, North Sumatra and Riau, the second in Jambi and South Sumatra, Java and Kalimantan (Sanders *et al.* in review).

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2012

Date Assessed: August 29, 2011

Justification:

This species is wide-ranging and common. It is heavily harvested for the leather trade throughout its range, however, there is no evidence that this is causing declines in the population. This species is highly fecund and reproduces quickly. Habitat destruction may affect this species in the future, and so populations and harvests should be managed and monitored. This species is listed as Least Concern.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2010 – Least Concern (LC)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

A. javanicus is found in central (Riau and Jambi) and northern Sumatra and around the west coast of Malaysia, including the islands of Penang and Langkawi, and east Malaysia in Sarawak. It also occurs in southern Thailand to Bangkok, and in Indonesia (Kalimantan, Java) and it may occur in Bali, but not east of the Wallace Line or in Viet Nam (K. Sanders pers. comm. 2008). It is restricted to inland freshwater and brackish habitats. This species occurs between sea level and 150 m.

Country Occurrence:

Native: Indonesia (Jawa, Kalimantan, Sumatera); Malaysia (Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak); Thailand

Distribution Map



Acrochordus javanicus

Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
IUCN



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



Population

A. javanicus is often locally abundant in degraded and agricultural as well as natural habitats. There is no indication that catch rates or individual size have declined in the past ten years (Nijman *et al.* in press 2010). It is likely that a fairly high level of harvest is sustainable. However, there are large rural human populations in much of the species' range, and harvest is intentional as well as opportunistic.

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

A. javanicus is found in inland freshwater habitats and the brackish zone of rivers, streams, and estuaries. In Thailand and Malaysia they occur in peat swamps and rice paddies.

Shine *et al.* (1995) found that larger female *A. javanicus* produce larger litters, and about two-thirds of the adult females sampled were reproductive that year. The Javan Wart Snake bears live young, about 20 to 30 offspring at one time. It has amniotic eggs, which are retained in the oviducts of the snake and are fertilized internally. The young snakes are semi-terrestrial, until their baggy skin is fully developed. Reproduction is seasonal in all three acrochordids, with ovulation around July and parturition five or six months later.

It feeds primarily on fish and other aquatic animals including frogs.

Systems: Freshwater, Marine

Use and Trade (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is collected for pet trade and for its skin.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is used for the commercial skin industry. The annual trade in *A. javanicus* (in five cities in East and South Kalimantan, and North Sumatra, Riau (central Sumatra) and South Sumatra, 2005-6) was estimated at around 300,000 individuals from Kalimantan and 30,000 from Sumatra, exceeding the national quota of 200,000 individuals per year (Nijman *et al.* in press).

The biology of *A. javanicus*, and the ways in which this species is collected for the commercial skin industry, suggest that the current harvest is unlikely to seriously reduce wild populations (Shine *et al.* 1995). The relatively aseasonal precipitation regime in much of its range, the extensive (and largely inaccessible) habitat, the lack of specific and efficient techniques to capture snakes, and the high reproductive output of the snakes are some of the factors contributing to this continued sustainability (Shine *et al.* 1995).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

There are no known conservation measures in place for this species. This species is not listed by CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). In Thailand there is a prohibition to export any living snake.

An effective and successful method of captive breeding is not available for this species, although they are often kept successfully by zoos and private collectors. This may reduce capture in the wild.

This species is present in several protected areas in Thailand in Malaysia.

Credits

Assessor(s): Sanders, K., Grismer, L. & Chan-Ard, T.

Reviewer(s): Tognelli, M. & Bowles, P.

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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>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.15. Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Lakes and Flats	-	Suitable	-
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.16. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Marshes/Pools	-	Suitable	-
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.17. Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Marshes/Pools	-	Suitable	-
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.10. Marine Neritic - Estuaries	-	Suitable	-

Use and Trade

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

End Use	Local	National	International
Wearing apparel, accessories	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pets/display animals, horticulture	Yes	Yes	Yes

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.4. Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -> 5.4.2. Intentional use: (large scale)	Ongoing	-	-	-
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
3. Monitoring -> 3.2. Harvest level trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 150
Upper depth limit (m): 0
Population
Population severely fragmented: No

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