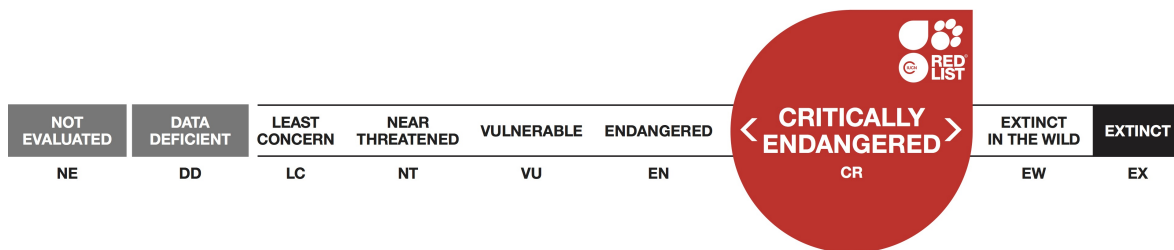


## *Cryptochloris wintoni*, De Winton's Golden Mole

Assessment by: Bronner, G.



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

**Citation:** Bronner, G. 2015. *Cryptochloris wintoni*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015*: e.T5748A21287143. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-2.RLTS.T5748A21287143.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	Afrosoricida	Chrysochloridae

**Taxon Name:** *Cryptochloris wintoni* (Broom, 1907)

### Common Name(s):

- English: De Winton's Golden Mole

### Taxonomic Notes:

Some authors (e.g., Simonetta 1968) treated this taxon as only subspecifically distinct from *C. zyli*, but these taxa differ consistently in pelage colour and malleus morphology, indicating that they are not conspecific (Meester 1974). Recent (but still unpublished) phylogenetic analyses based on both morphological and genetic data support the allocation of these taxa to separate species, and justify synonymizing *Cryptochloris* as a subgenus of *Chrysochloris*, corroborating the close phylogenetic association of these taxa reported by Asher *et al.* (2010).

This species is easily confused with Grant's Golden Mole (*Eremitalpa granti*). A specimen in the Smithsonian Institution collected near Garies (181 km southeast of the type locality) is a misidentified *E. granti*. Conversely, several specimens of this taxon in the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Museum of Comparative Zoology (Harvard) and Natural History Museum (London) are incorrectly identified as *E. granti* (Asher and Avery 2010). Although externally similar to *E. granti*, radiographs make *Cryptochloris* easy to recognize based on malleus shape, vertebral count, and length of humeral medial epicondyle (Asher and Avery 2010).

## Assessment Information

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct) B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii) [ver 3.1](#)

**Year Published:** 2015

**Date Assessed:** February 7, 2014

### Justification:

Known from only the type locality, and not recorded for more than 50 years. The existing evidence is that it is a valid species, and occurs in an area of high threat owing to radical habitat transformation by alluvial diamond mining, so it is listed as Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct) under criteria B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii), notwithstanding that its cryptic and trap-shy nature may obscure a more common and widespread occurrence.

**Date last seen:** 1937

### Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Critically Endangered (CR)

2006 – Critically Endangered (CR)

1996 – Vulnerable (VU)

1994 – Indeterminate (I)

1990 – Indeterminate (I)

1988 – Insufficiently Known (K)

## Geographic Range

### Range Description:

This species is endemic to South Africa. Recorded only from the type locality at Port Nolloth, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

### Country Occurrence:

**Possibly extinct:** South Africa (Northern Cape Province)

## Distribution Map

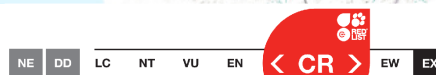


### *Cryptochloris wintoni*

#### Range

■ Possibly Extinct

Compiled by:  
IUCN (International Union for  
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

Extremely rare; sympatric with *E. granti* and possibly underestimated due to external resemblance thereto. All of the golden moles in the Namaqualand coastal region are exceptionally difficult to catch, so this species could be more common or widespread than current records indicate.

**Current Population Trend:** Unknown

## Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Occurs on coastal dunes and adjacent sandy areas in Strandveld of the Namaqualand coastal plain (Succulent Karoo biome) of the Northern Cape (Bronner 2013).

**Systems:** Terrestrial

## Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Habitat alteration as a result of mining of coastal sands for alluvial diamonds in the Port Nolloth district may pose a threat to this species (Smithers 1986). The type locality is near Port Nolloth, an important regional harbour that is being expanded to establish more fish processing plants and abalone maricultures, so infrastructural developments with increased human densities can also be considered a possible threat.

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Not recorded from any protected areas. Fieldwork to survey for populations and assess the extent of anthropogenic threats is urgently needed. Research to determine distribution limits and basic ecology is also a priority.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** Bronner, G.

**Reviewer(s):** Asher, R.J. & Taylor, A.

## Bibliography

Afrotheria Specialist Group. 2014. Specialist Group website. Available at:

<http://www.afrotheria.net/index.php>.

Asher, R.J. and Avery, D.M. 2010. New golden moles (Afrotheria, Chrysochloridae) from the Pliocene of South Africa. *Paleontologica Electronica* 13(1): 3A.

Asher, R.J., Maree, S., Bronner, G., Bennett, N.C., Bloomer, P., Czechowski, P., Meyer, M. and Hofreiter, M. 2010. A phylogenetic estimate for golden moles (Mammalia, Afrotheria, Chrysochloridae). *BMC Evolutionary Biology* 10: 69 (doi:10.1186/1471-2148-10-69).

Bronner, G.N. 2013. *Cryptochloris wintoni*. In: J. Kingdon, D. Happold, T. Butynski, M. Hoffmann, M. Happold and J. Kalina (eds), *Mammals of Africa, Volume I: Introductory Chapters and Afrotheria*, pp. 250-251. Bloomsbury Publishing, London.

Bronner, G.N. and Jenkins, P.D. 2005. Order Afrosoricida. In: D.E. Wilson and D.M. Reeder (eds), *Mammal Species of the World*, pp. 70-81. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD, USA.

Broom, R. 1907. A contribution to the knowledge of the Cape golden moles. *Transactions of the South African Philosophical Society* 18: 283–311.

IUCN. 2015. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2015.2. Available at: [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org). (Accessed: 23 June 2015).

Meester, J. 1974. *Family Chrysochloridae*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC, USA.

Simonetta, A.M. 1968. A new golden mole from Somalia with an appendix on the taxonomy of the family Chrysochloridae (Mammalia, Insectivora). *Monitore zoologici Italiano, Supplement 2*: 27–55.

## Citation

Bronner, G. 2015. *Cryptochloris wintoni*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015*: e.T5748A21287143. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-2.RLTS.T5748A21287143.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	Resident	Suitable	Yes
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.5. Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas	Resident	Marginal	-

### Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.1. Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.2. Commercial & industrial areas	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.3. Tourism & recreation areas	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, significant declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.4. Marine & freshwater aquaculture -> 2.4.2. Industrial aquaculture	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
3. Energy production & mining -> 3.2. Mining & quarrying	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, significant declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		

### Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Action Recovery plan: No
Systematic monitoring scheme: No

<b>Conservation Actions in Place</b>
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: No

## Conservation Actions Needed

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

<b>Conservation Actions Needed</b>
1. Land/water protection -> 1.1. Site/area protection

## Research Needed

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

<b>Research Needed</b>
1. Research -> 1.1. Taxonomy
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
1. Research -> 1.6. Actions

## Additional Data Fields

<b>Distribution</b>
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km <sup>2</sup> ): 8
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): Yes
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km <sup>2</sup> ): 8
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): Yes
Number of Locations: 1
<b>Population</b>
Population severely fragmented: No
No. of subpopulations: 1
All individuals in one subpopulation: Yes
<b>Habitats and Ecology</b>
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes



## 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](#).