Cyclopes didactylus, Silky Anteater

Assessment by: Miranda, F., Meritt, D.A., Tirira, D.G. & Arteaga, M.

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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>Pilosa</td>
<td>Cyclopedidae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Taxon Name:** *Cyclopes didactylus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Infra-specific Taxa Assessed:**
- *Cyclopes didactylus* (Northeastern Brazil subpopulation)

**Common Name(s):**
- English: Silky Anteater, Pygmy Anteater
- Spanish: Inti Pelejo, Serafín, Serafin del Platanar

**Taxonomic Notes:**
There are seven subspecies of *Cyclopes didactylus* (Gardner 2007).

**Assessment Information**

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Least Concern ver 3.1

**Year Published:** 2014

**Date Assessed:** December 2, 2013

**Justification:**
*Cyclopes didactylus* is listed as Least Concern in view of its wide distribution, presumed large population, its occurrence in a number of protected areas, its tolerance of a degree of habitat modification, and because it is unlikely to be declining fast enough to qualify for listing in a more threatened category.

**Previously Published Red List Assessments**
- 2013 – Least Concern (LC)
- 2008 – Least Concern (LC)
- 2006 – Least Concern (LC)
- 1996 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

**Geographic Range**

**Range Description:**
*Cyclopes didactylus* ranges from Mexico (Veracruz and Oaxaca) in the north, south into Colombia from where it ranges west of the Andes to southern Ecuador, and east of the Andes into Venezuela, Trinidad Island, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil (Acre state east to western Maranhão state), and as far south as Bolivia (La Paz and Santa Cruz) (Gardner 2007). The species has not been recorded from El Salvador and it is unclear if the species was ever present there. It has been recorded from sea level up to 1,500 m Asl. There is a population of *C. didactylus* on the northeastern coast of Brazil; it is evaluated
separately due to its isolation from the main population.

**Country Occurrence:**

**Native:** Belize; Bolivia, Plurinational States of; Brazil (Alagoas, Amapá, Amazonas, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Pará, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Rio Grande do Norte, Rondônia, Roraima, Tocantins); Colombia (Colombia (mainland)); Costa Rica (Costa Rica (mainland)); Ecuador (Ecuador (mainland)); French Guiana; Guatemala; Guyana; Honduras (Honduras (mainland)); Mexico (Campeche, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Tabasco, Veracruz); Nicaragua (Nicaragua (mainland)); Panama; Peru; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago; Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of (Venezuela (mainland))
**Cyclopes didactylus**

**Range**

- Extant (resident)

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http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2014-1.RLTS.T6019A47440020.en
Population
Not much is known about the wild populations of *C. didactylus*. The population density has been estimated at 4.62-5.50 individuals/km² in a mangrove swamp on Trinidad Island (Bhagratty *et al.* 2013).

**Current Population Trend:** Unknown

**Habitat and Ecology** *(see Appendix for additional information)*
This nocturnal and arboreal species occurs in semi-deciduous and evergreen tropical moist lowland forest, gallery forest, and mangrove forest. It can be found in secondary forest habitat. The species seems to feed exclusively on ants; no termites have been identified in any dietary study of *Cyclopes* (Miranda *et al.* 2009). Adults are solitary; the home range of a male overlaps the home range of three females (Montgomery 1983). The females give birth to a single young once per year, usually in September/October (F.R. Miranda pers. comm. 2013).

**Systems:** Terrestrial

**Use and Trade** *(see Appendix for additional information)*
Silky anteaters are sometimes captured and kept as a pet species in the country of origin.

**Threats** *(see Appendix for additional information)*
Although general deforestation is taking place over many parts of the range, *C. didactylus* remains widespread in the Amazon Basin and there are currently no major threats to the survival of this small anteater. In some areas it is captured and kept as a pet species, although it usually does not survive long in captivity.

**Conservation Actions** *(see Appendix for additional information)*
*Cyclopes didactylus* is present in a number of protected areas.

**Credits**

**Assessor(s):** Miranda, F., Meritt, D.A., Tirira, D.G. & Arteaga, M.

**Reviewer(s):** Abba, A.M. & Superina, M.

**Contributor(s):** Chacón, J.

**Facilitators(s) and Compiler(s):** Abba, A.M.
Bibliography


Reid, F. 1997. *A field guide to the mammals of Central America and southeast Mexico*. Oxford University Press, New York, USA.


**Citation**


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**External Resources**

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information](http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2014-1.RLTS.T6019A47440020.en), 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>1. Forest -&gt; 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest -&gt; 1.7. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Mangrove Vegetation Above High Tide Level</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest -&gt; 1.9. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use and Trade
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End Use</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pets/display animals, horticulture</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Impact Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Stresses:
1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion
2. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation

5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target) | Ongoing | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown |

Stresses:
2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality

Conservation Actions in Place
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Actions in Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Recovery plan: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systematic monitoring scheme: No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Conservation Actions in Place

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation sites identified:</td>
<td>Yes, over entire range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occur in at least one PA:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area based regional management plan:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive species control or prevention:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Place Species Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvest management plan:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successfully reintroduced or introduced benuingly:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to ex-situ conservation:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Place Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to recent education and awareness programmes:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Included in international legislation:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject to any international management/trade controls:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conservation Actions Needed

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Actions Needed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Land/water management -&gt; 2.1. Site/area management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Education &amp; awareness -&gt; 4.3. Awareness &amp; communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Needed

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Needed</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research -&gt; 1.1. Taxonomy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research -&gt; 1.2. Population size, distribution &amp; trends</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research -&gt; 1.3. Life history &amp; ecology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research -&gt; 1.5. Threats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Planning -&gt; 2.2. Area-based Management Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring -&gt; 3.1. Population trends</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring -&gt; 3.4. Habitat trends</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Data Fields

http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2014-1.RLTS.T6019447440020.en
### Distribution
- Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km²): 8000000
- Lower elevation limit (m): 0
- Upper elevation limit (m): 1500

### Population
- Population severely fragmented: No

### Habitats and Ecology
- Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Unknown
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