

Family Lacertidae

Meroles knoxii (Milne-Edwards, 1829)

Knox's Desert Lizard

South African near-endemic

■ LC – Least Concern (Global)

Assessors: Tolley, K.A., Turner, A.A.

Previous Red List categories:

2018: Least Concern (Global IUCN assessment).

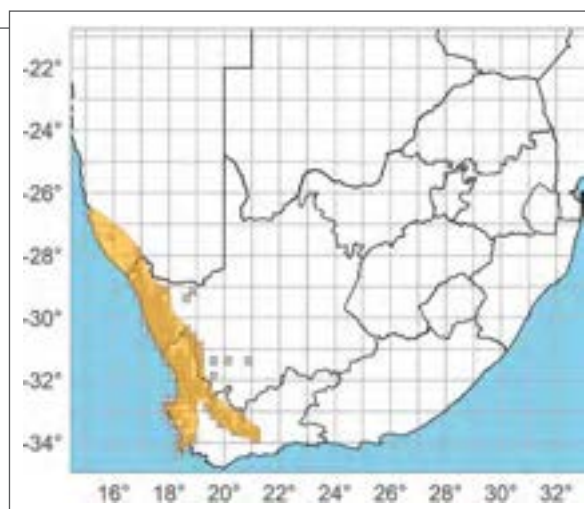
2017: Least Concern (Global IUCN assessment).

2014: Least Concern (SARCA).

Assessment rationale: This widely distributed species is abundant and tolerates some degree of habitat alteration.

Taxonomic notes: Two subspecies were previously recognised, *M. k. knoxii* from south of the Orange River in the Northern Cape province of South Africa and *M. k. pequensis* from north of the Orange River in Namibia based on slight differences in scalation, body size and egg clutch size (Branch 1998). However, these differences more likely reflect a morphological cline and geographic variation in life history within the species, as a contemporary study detected only population level structure across the range of this species (Strauss 2016). *Other important names:* none.

Distribution: Occurs from southwestern Namibia into South Africa along the western margin to the Cape Peninsula, and inland to the Little Karoo (Branch 1998). There are a few scattered records in



the northeast of the distribution and inland above the Great Escarpment that require verification. These are not included in the distribution or the EOO estimate. EOO: 173 000 km²; Distribution: 98 400 km².

Countries of occurrence: Namibia, South Africa.

Habitat and ecology: Occurs in areas with sparse, shrubby vegetation, usually on sandy soils (Branch 1998). *Habitat:* Shrubland.

Threats: There are no significant threats to this species.

Population trend: Given that this species is widespread and common, it is not considered to be in decline.

Conservation and research recommendations: No recommendations.

Meroles knoxii, Port Nolloth, Northern Cape province (© L. Kemp).

