



## *Cynisca bifrontalis*, French Congo Worm Lizard

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## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Amphisbaenidae

**Taxon Name:** *Cynisca bifrontalis* (Boulenger, 1906)

**Synonym(s):**

- *Amphisbaena bifrontalis*

**Common Name(s):**

- English: French Congo Worm Lizard, Omboué Worm Lizard

## Assessment Information

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

**Year Published:** 2010

**Date Assessed:** June 30, 2009

**Justification:**

*Cynisca bifrontalis* is listed as Least Concern. This fossorial species is distributed in relatively pristine habitats. There are no major threats impacting this species at present but monitoring should be carried out to check threat levels in the future.

## Geographic Range

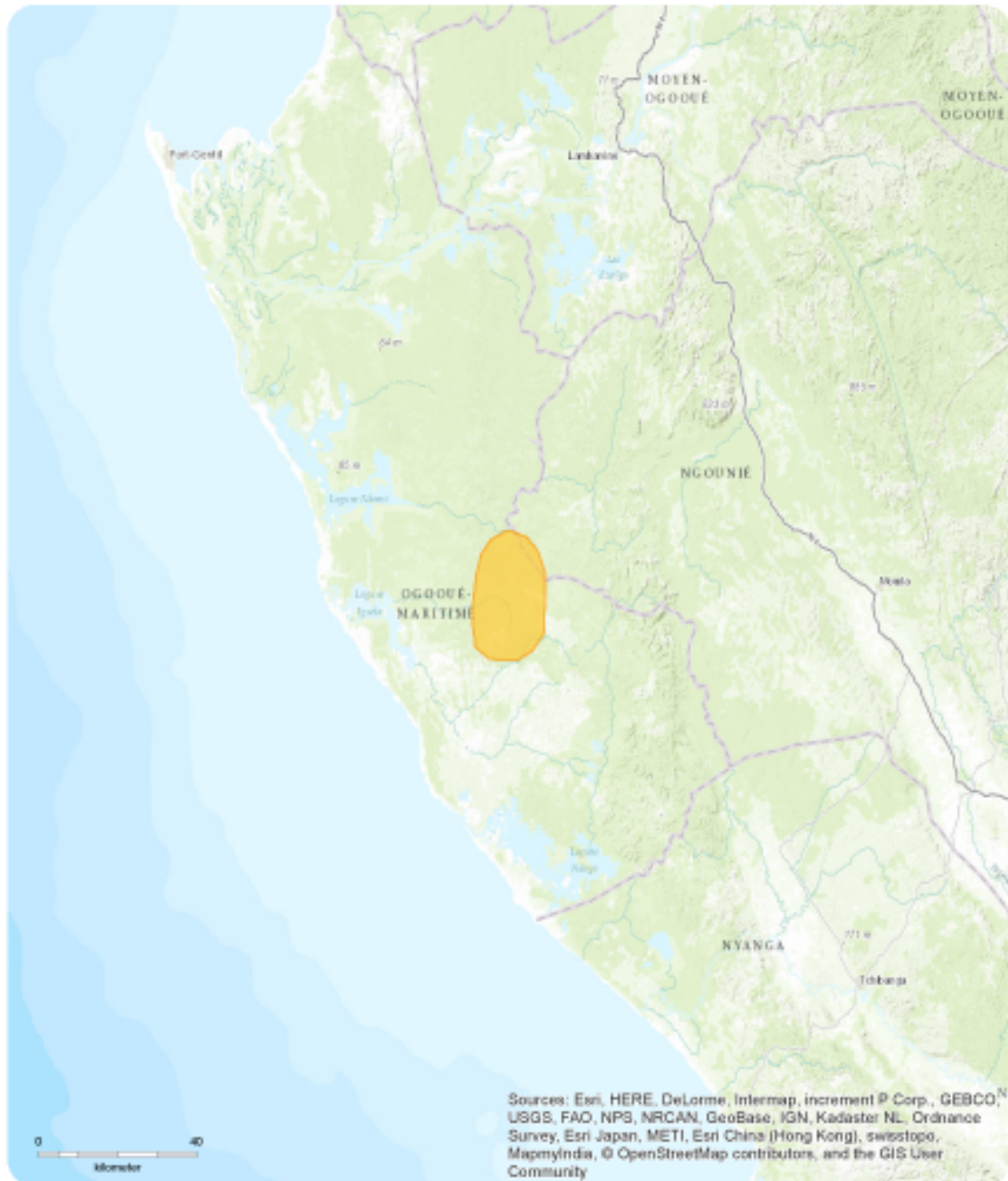
**Range Description:**

This species was previously only known from its type locality until Branch *et al.* (2003) found five specimens in the Toucan/Rabi region of south western Gabon, extending its range 90 km south-east from type locality. This species is thought to occur in the whole Gamba-Conckouati lands which covers all the lowland coastal rainforest of southern Gabon and probably southwestern Congo-Brazzaville (O. Pauwels pers. comm.).

**Country Occurrence:**

**Native:** Gabon

# Distribution Map



## *Cynisca bifrontalis*

### Range

■ Extant (resident)

Compiled by:  
Red List Index (Sampled Approach), Zoological Society of London



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



## Population

The species is poorly represented in collections, but this is not due to its actual rarity but because of its strictly fossorial habits, very small size, and lack of herpetological research in its range (O. Pauwels pers. comm.).

**Current Population Trend:** Unknown

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

This species occurs in mature lowland forest.

**Systems:** Terrestrial

## Threats

This species is certainly sensitive to logging industry, but forests of this region are still well preserved, and the two localities where the species was found are situated very close to national parks in which the species is most probably present. Oil industry impact is negligible in comparison with logging impact. Therefore there are no major threats impacting this species at this time.

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

There are no known species-specific conservation measures in place for this species. Parts of this species' distribution might coincide with protected areas. Monitoring of this species' population, and research into its habitat and threats, should be carried out because if deforestation rates increase in the future, the species may experience significant population declines.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** Pauwels, O.S.G. & Schmitz, A.

**Reviewer(s):** Böhm, M., Collen, B. & Ram, M. (Sampled Red List Index Coordinating Team)

**Contributor(s):** De Silva, R., Milligan, H.T., Wearn, O.R., Wren, S., Zamin, T., Sears, J., Wilson, P., Lewis, S., Lintott, P. & Powney, G.

## Bibliography

Boulenger, G.A. 1906. Report on the reptiles collected by the late L. Fea in West Africa. *Annali di Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Genova* 3(2): 196-216.

Branch, W.R., Pauwels, O.S.G. and Burger, M. 2003. Re-Discovery of *Cynisca bifrontalis* in Gabon, with additional notes on *Monopeltis galeata* (Reptilia: Amphisbaenia). *African Journal of Herpetology* 52(2): 93-100.

IUCN. 2010. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (ver. 2010.4). Available at: <http://www.iucnredlist.org>. (Accessed: 27 October 2010).

Pauwels, O.S.G. 2007. *pers. comm. Red List Assessment*.

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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?
1. Forest -> 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	-	Suitable	-

## 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: Unknown

## Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

## Additional Data Fields

Population
Population severely fragmented: No

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