



Coluber caspius

Annex	IV
Priority	No
Species group	Reptiles
Regions	Alpine, Black Sea, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian, Steppic

Coluber caspius

The Caspian Whipsnake is a common species of whipsnake found in the Balkans and parts of Eastern Europe. According to wikipedia it is perhaps the largest species of snake in Europe (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caspian_whipsnake). The species is found in grassy, open areas with sparse shrubbery, open, bushy areas, hilly slopes, rocky riverbanks and swampy areas, as well as gardens and cemeteries.

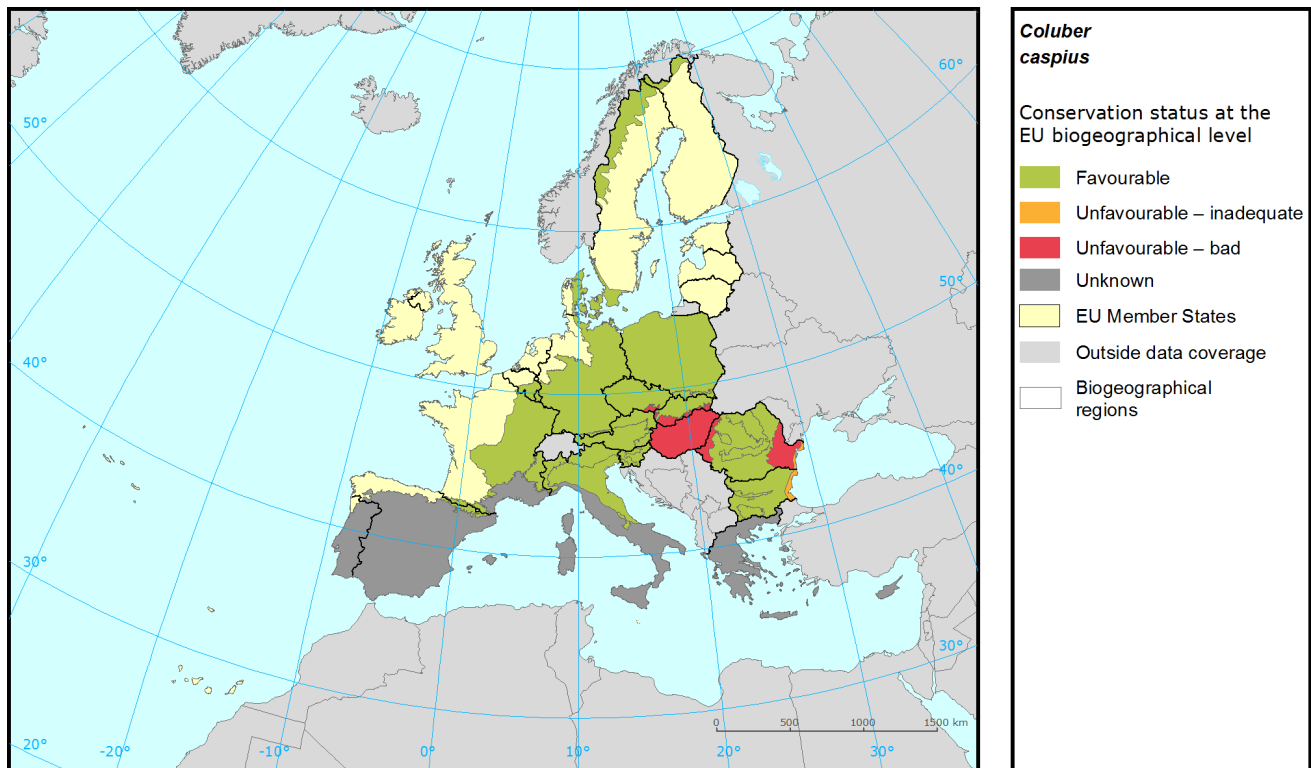
The species is reported by Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary and Romania for the Alpine, Black Sea, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian, and Steppic biogeographical regions. The reported conservation status of the species varies considerably between biogeographical regions. Whereas the Alpine and Continental regions are assessed as 'favourable', the Black Sea region is assessed as 'unfavourable-inadequate', the Pannonian and Steppic regions as 'unfavourable-bad' and the Mediterranean region as 'unknown'. Important pressures and threats reported by Member States include roads and motorways, urbanization, agricultural intensification, solar energy production, removal of hedges and copses or scrub, and animal taking.

The IUCN Red List classifies the species as least concern due to its wide distribution and presumed large population (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/157267/1> consulted on 3 March 2015).

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Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV		6	XX	Not genuine
BLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	9	XX	Not genuine
CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		66	XX	Not genuine
MED	FV	XX	XX	FV	XX		12	XX	
PAN	U2	U2	U1	U2	U2	x	0.51	U2	
STE	FV	U1	U1	U2	U2	x	6	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more informationⁱ

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Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



Coluber caspius

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Favourable | EU Member States |
| Unfavourable - inadequate | Outside data coverage |
| Unfavourable - bad | Biogeographical region |
| Unknown | |

The map shows both Conservation Status and distribution using a 10 km x 10 km grid. Conservation status is assessed at biogeographical level. Therefore the representation in each grid cell is only illustrative.

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MS Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
BG ALP	FV	FV	XX	FV	FV		100.0		
BG BLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	75.6		
RO BLS	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1		24.4		
BG CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		92.4		
RO CON	FV	U1	U1	U2	U2		7.6		
GR MED	FV	XX	XX	FV	XX		100.0	XX	
HU PAN	U2	U2	U1	U2	U2	x	100.0	U2	
RO STE	FV	U1	U1	U2	U2		100.0		

Knowing that not all changes in conservation status between the reporting periods were genuine, Member States were asked to give the reasons for changes in conservation status. Bulgaria and Romania only joined the EU in 2007 and Greece did not report for 2007-12 so no reason is given for change for these countries. Greek data shown above is from 2001-06.

Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

Member States were asked to report the 20 most important threats and pressures using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the [Article 17 Reference Portal](#). Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the species and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance'; the tables below only show threats and pressures classed as 'high', for some species there were less than ten threats or pressures reported as highly important.

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	20
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	20
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	15
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	10
B01	Afforestation	10
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	10
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	5
C01	Mining and quarrying	5
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	5

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Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	28
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	17
F03	Hunting and collection of terrestrial wild animals	17
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	11
B01	Afforestation	6
B02	Forest and plantation management & use	6
C01	Mining and quarrying	6
G01	Outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities	6
G02	Sport and leisure infrastructures	6

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2007-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at:

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/species/summary/?group=Reptiles&period=3&subject=Coluber+caspius>

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i Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level: Current Conservation Status (Current CS) shows the status for the reporting period 2007-2012, Previous Conservation Status (Previous CS) for the reporting period 2000-2006. Reason for change in conservation status between the reporting periods indicates whether the changes in the status were genuine or not genuine. Previous Conservation Status was not assessed for Steppic, Black Sea and Marine Black Sea regions. For these regions the Previous status is therefore considered as 'unknown'. The percentage of the species population occurring within the biogeographical/marine region (% in region) is calculated based on the area of GIS distribution.