Report under the Article 17 of the Habitats Directive
Period 2007-2012

**European Environment
Agency**
*European Topic Centre
on Biological Diversity*

Natrix tessellata

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

The Dice Snake is a non venomous snake occurring in central and south-eastern Europe. It lives mainly near rivers, streams or lakes. It is common in much of its range. Its conservation status in all six biogeographical regions is Unfavourable-Inadequate. Numeral threats and pressures of high importace support this conclusion.

In the Continental region the conservation status stays Unfavourable-Inadequate in both reporting rounds (although now with decreasing trend in conservation status). Many threats or pressures of high importance are reported by Member States (expect Slovenia and Bulgaria) such as changes in inland water courses, urbanisation, invasive non-natieve species, roads or motorways, migration barriers, predation, succession, filling in ditches etc, canalisation, pollution to surface waters, reduction in genetic exhange.

The conservation status is Unfavourable-Inadequate in the Alpine region and was the same in the previous reporting round (however, now it is with decreasing trend in conservation status). Various threats or pressures of high importance are reported, namely urbanisation, changes in inland water courses, pollution to surface waters, filling inf ditches etc, anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity and canalisation.

Conservation status in the Pannonian region is Unfavourbale-Inadequate and was likely the same in the previous reporting round as Hungary (54% of the distribution) reports on better knowledge or more accurate data. All countries report at least one threat or pressure of high importance (urbanisation, natural inundation, pollution to surface waters, canalisation, roads or motorways, predation, migration barriers, succession and invasive non-native species).

In the Steppic region (only Romania) the conservation status is Unfavourable-Inadequate with dreceasing trend in conservation status. Romania reports urbanisation as a high importance threat and pressure.

The conservation status in the Black Sea region (Bulgaria and Romania) is Unfavourable-Inadequate with decreasing overall trend in conservation status. Romania reports urbanisation as high importance threat and pressure.

In the Mediterranean region the conservation status was in 2001-2006 Unknown and is now Unfavourable-Inadequate with decreasing overall trend in conservation status (however missing Greece data from 2007-2013 adds uncertainty). The previous conservation status was likely to be Unfavourable-Inadequate as Italy reports on better data/improved knowledge. Italy reports threats and pressures of high importance namely anthropogenic reduction of habitat connectivity and modification of hydrographic functioning.

According to IUCN EU 27 regional assessment the species is Least Concern.

Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level
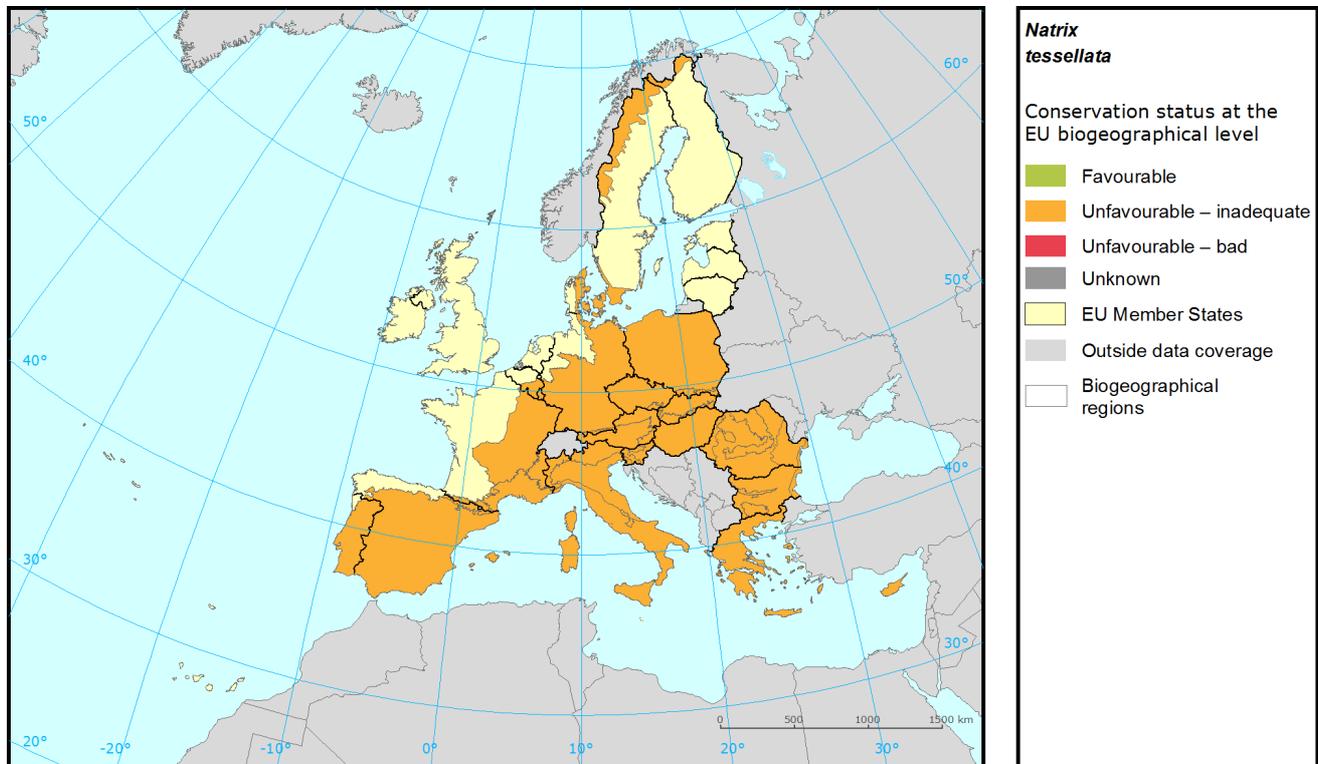
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	16	U1	
BLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	3	XX	Not genuine
CON	U1	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	49	U1	
MED	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1	-	15	XX	Not genuine
PAN	U1	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	15	XX	Not genuine
STE	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	2	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information[i]

Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level
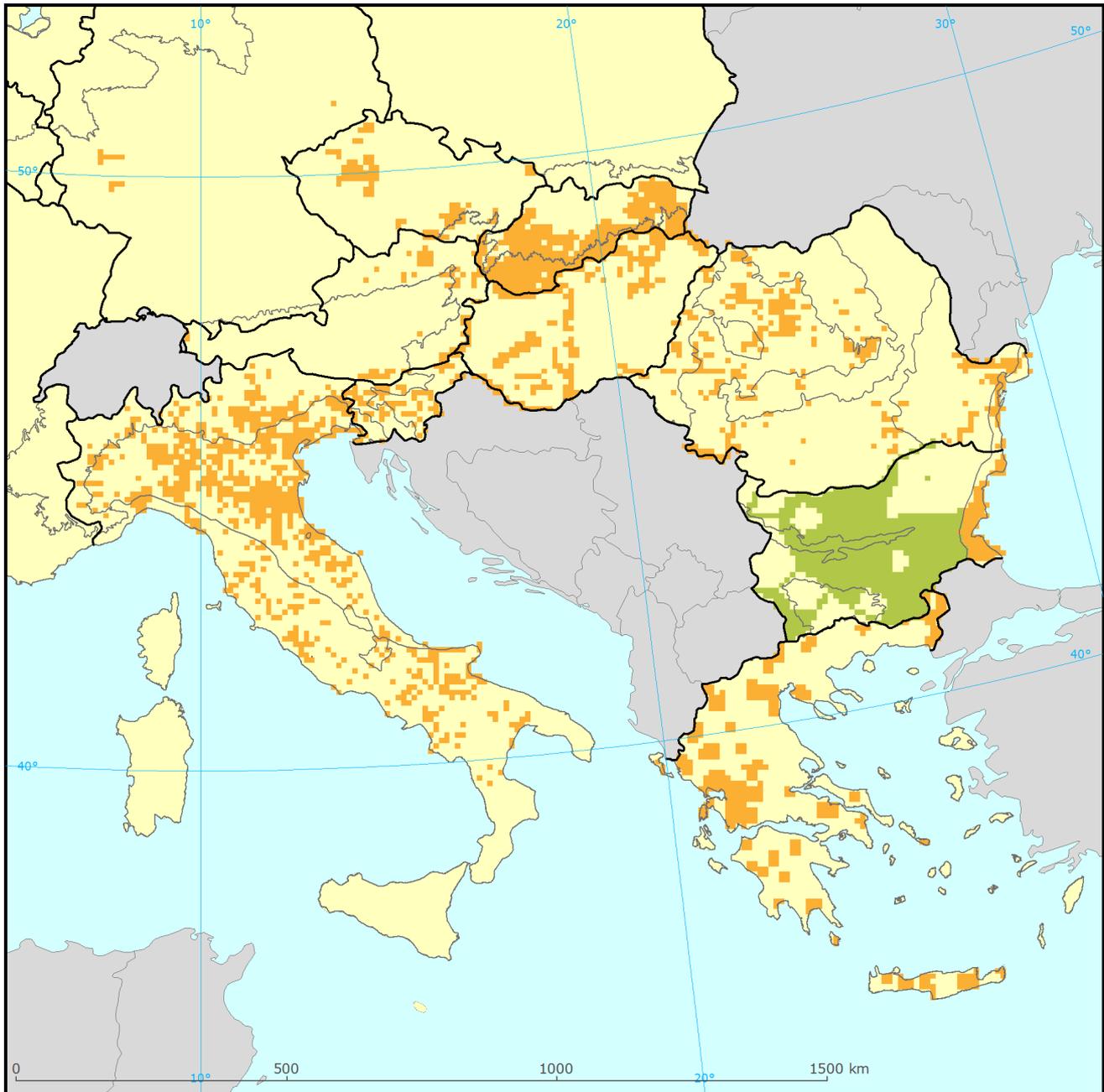
Natrix tessellata

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.

MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
AT	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	4.3	U2	Better data
BG	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		19.7		
IT	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	26.8	XX	Better data
RO	ALP	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	6.6		
SI	ALP	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	4.3	U1	
SK	ALP	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	38.2	U1-	
BG	BLS	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	75.6		
RO	BLS	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	24.4		
AT	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	2.9	U2	Better data
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		42.6		
CZ	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	5.5	U1-	
DE	CON	U1	U1	U1	FV	U1	=	0.9	U2	Changed method
IT	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	31.1	FV	Better data
RO	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	13.7		
SI	CON	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	3.3	U1	
GR	MED	XX	XX	XX	U1	U1		48.6	U1	
IT	MED	FV	FV	U1	U1	U1	-	51.4	XX	Better data
CZ	PAN	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	2.0	U1	
HU	PAN	U1	XX	U1	U1	U1	x	53.7	XX	Better data
RO	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	6.4		
SK	PAN	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	37.9	U1-	
RO	STE	FV	FV	FV	U1	U1	-	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
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	21
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	18
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	15
H01	Pollution to surface waters	12
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	9
I01	Invasive alien species	6
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	6
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	6
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	3
L08	Flooding (natural processes)	3

Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	20
E01	Urbanisation and human habitation	17
J03	Other changes to ecosystems	17
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	11
H01	Pollution to surface waters	11
I01	Invasive alien species	6
K02	Vegetation succession/Biocenotic evolution	6
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	6
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	3
K05	Reduced fecundity/Genetic depression	3

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=Natrix+tessellata

[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.