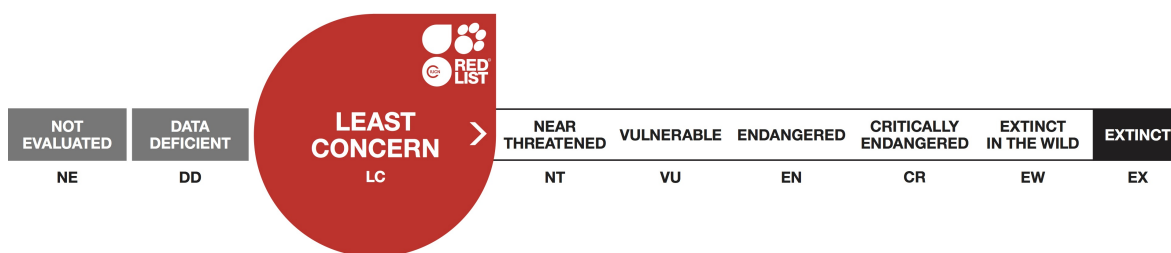


## *Darevskia portschinskii*, River Kura Lizard

Assessment by: Boris Tuniyev, Natalia Ananjeva, Aram Agasyan, Nikolai Orlov,  
 and Sako Tuniyev



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## Taxonomy

| Kingdom  | Phylum   | Class    | Order    | Family     |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Animalia | Chordata | Reptilia | Squamata | Lacertidae |

**Taxon Name:** *Darevskia portschinskii* (Kessler, 1878)

### Synonym(s):

- *Lacerta muralis subspecies depressa* Boettger, 1899
- *Lacerta muralis subspecies portshinskii* Boulenger, 1904
- *Lacerta portshinskii*
- *Lacerta saxicola portshinskii*

### Common Name(s):

- English: River Kura Lizard
- French: Lezard de Portschinski

### Taxonomic Notes:

The nominative subspecies *D. p. portshinskii* occupies the most part of the distribution range. *D. p. nigrita* (Bakradze, 1976) is distributed in the ravines of the right side tributaries of the Kura River (the rivers Mashavera in Georgia and Debeta in Armenia).

## Assessment Information

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

**Year Published:** 2009

**Date Assessed:** December 14, 2008

### Justification:

Listed as Least Concern in view of its wide distribution, presumed large population, it occurs in a number of protected areas, has a 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.

## Geographic Range

### Range Description:

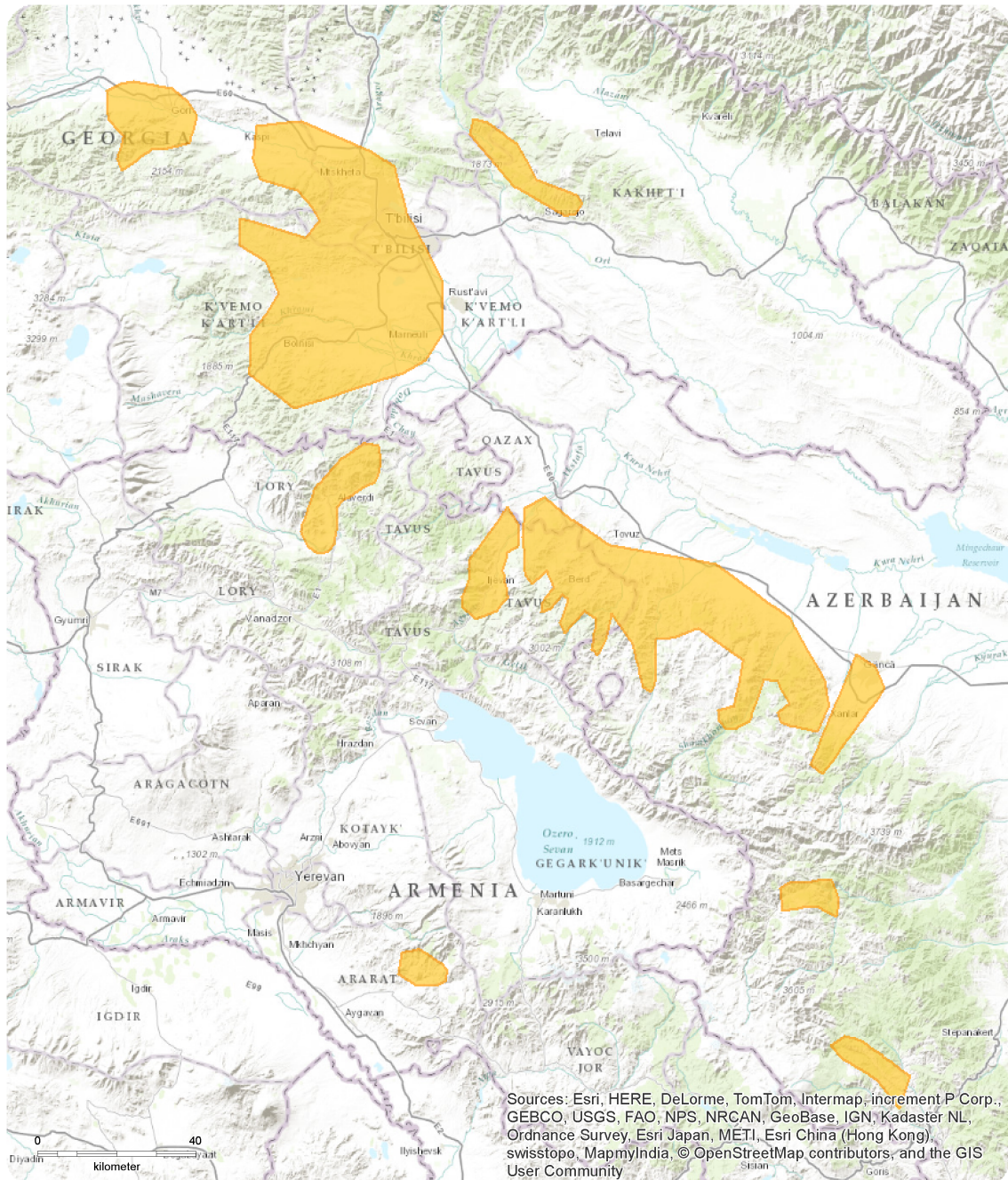
This species is present in eastern and southeastern Georgia, Armenia and southern Azerbaijan. The main distribution of this species is along the right-bank of the valley of the middle Kura River, and the ravines of its right-side tributaries within Georgia, northern Armenia and north-western Azerbaijan. Populations have been recorded from Gori in the west, to the northern foothills of Lesser Caucasus range, and in the lower and middle sections of rivers flowing into the Kura River (Algeti, Khrami, Debet, Akstafa-chai, Gyandzha-chai and others) in the southeast. A large isolated population is present within the valley of the middle part of the Iori River (a left-side tributary of the Kura River) on the southern slopes of the Zivgamborsky mountain range. A second interesting isolated population has been discovered in southwestern Azerbaijan, in the ravine of upper Akar River (part of the Aras River basin). It has been

recorded from 300 to 1,700m asl.

**Country Occurrence:**

**Native:** Armenia (Armenia); Azerbaijan; Georgia

# Distribution Map



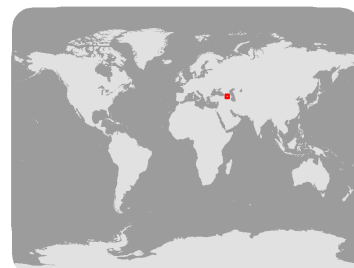
## *Darevskia portschinskii*

### Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:  
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

|    |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| NE | DD | <b>LC</b><br><small>LEAST CONCERN</small> | > | NT | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX |
|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|



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



## Population

Over most of its range populations are high and stable (up to 40 - 55 specimens per km<sup>2</sup>).

**Current Population Trend:** Decreasing

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

It inhabits relatively arid rocks along riverbanks and mountain slopes with xerophytic shrubby and herbaceous vegetation. It is tolerant of a degree of habitat modification. It is a parthenogenic species, the female lays two to five eggs in a clutch.

**Systems:** Terrestrial

## Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Overall the species is not experiencing significant declines. There are some local declines in locations with many people, (especially urban areas).

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Populations of this species have been recorded from several protected areas. Other than general research activities, no direct conservation measures are needed for this species as a whole.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** Boris Tuniyev, Natalia Ananjeva, Aram Agasyan, Nikolai Orlov, and Sako Tuniyev

**Reviewer(s):** Neil Cox and Helen Temple

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## Citation

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## External Resources

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## Appendix

### Habitats

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

| Habitat   | Season | Suitability | Major Importance? |
|---|--------|-------------|-------------------|
| 3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry     | -      | Marginal    | -                 |
| 0. Root -> 6. Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks) | -      | Suitable    | -                 |

### Threats

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

| Threat  | Timing    | Scope   | Severity | Impact Score |
|---|-----------|---|----------|--------------|
| 1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.1. Housing & urban areas | Ongoing   | -   | -        | -            |
|   | Stresses: | 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion<br>1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation |          |              |

### Conservation Actions in Place

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

| Conservation Actions in Place                         |
|---|
| In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management         |
| Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range |

### Research Needed

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

| Research Needed  |
|--|
| 1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends |
| 1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology                 |

### Additional Data Fields

| Distribution                    |
|---------------------------------|
| Lower elevation limit (m): 300  |
| Upper elevation limit (m): 1700 |



|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| <b>Population</b>                  |
| Population severely fragmented: No |

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