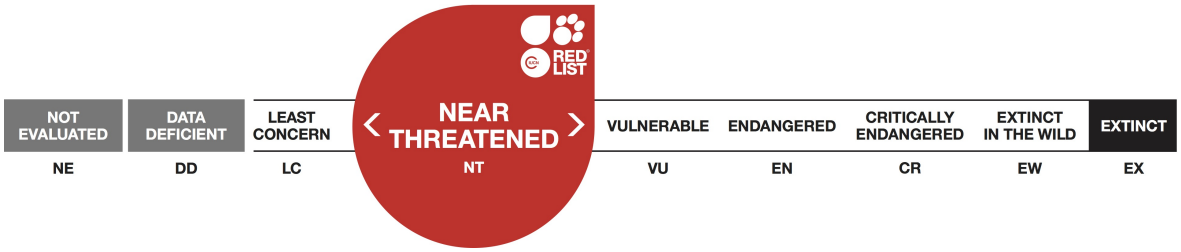
The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™
ISSN 2307-8235 (online)
IUCN 2008: T97219031A99166799
Scope: Global
Language: English

Cixius insularis, Tree lacehopper

Assessment by: Rego, C., Boieiro, M. & Borges, P.A.V.



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Citation: Rego, C., Boieiro, M. & Borges, P.A.V. 2018. *Cixius insularis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2018: e.T97219031A99166799. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2018-1.RLTS.T97219031A99166799.en

Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Hemiptera	Cixiidae

Taxon Name: *Cixius insularis* Lindberg, 1954

Synonym(s):

- *Cixius verticalis* Noulh. 1897

Common Name(s):

- English: Tree lacehopper

Taxonomic Source(s):

De Jong, Y., Verbeek, M., Michelsen, V., Bjørn, P.P., Los, W., Steeman, F., Bailly, N., Basire, C., Chylarecki, P., Stloukal, E., Hagedorn, G., Wetzel, F.T., Glöckler, F., Kroupa, A., Korb, G., Hoffmann, A., Häuser, C., Kohlbecker, A., Müller, A., Güntsch, A., Stoev, P. and Penev, L. 2014. Fauna Europaea – all European animal species on the web. *Biodiversity Data Journal* 2: e4034. DOI: 10.3897/BDJ.2.e4034.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Near Threatened ver 3.1

Year Published: 2018

Date Assessed: February 18, 2017

Justification:

Cixius insularis is an endemic canopy phytophagous species from the Azores, occurring only in S. Miguel island (Borges *et al.* 2010). It has a relatively small area of occupancy (AOO = 208 km²) and extent of occurrence (EOO = 633 km²). It is mainly present in native forest fragments and in areas where native trees can be found. The quality of the habitat is decreasing due to the spread of invasive species (*Hedychium gardnerianum* and *Pittosporum undulatum*) that are changing the habitat structure. Based on Ferreira *et al.* (2016) the habitat will decline as a consequence of climate change (increasing number of droughts). Based upon the small AOO and the fact that the area of occupancy of this species continues to decline due to habitat degradation in the native forest (mostly due to invasive plants) and to habitat fragmentation, it is assessed as Near Threatened (NT).

Geographic Range

Range Description:

Cixius insularis is a single island endemic tree lacehopper species from S. Miguel (Azores, Portugal) (Borges *et al.* 2010). It occurs mainly in the humid native forest of this archipelago and is known from Natural Forest Reserves of Atalhada, Graminhais and Pico da Vara. However, it occurs also in human modified habitats. The extent of occurrence (EOO) is 633 km² and the maximum estimated area of occupancy (AOO) is 208 km².

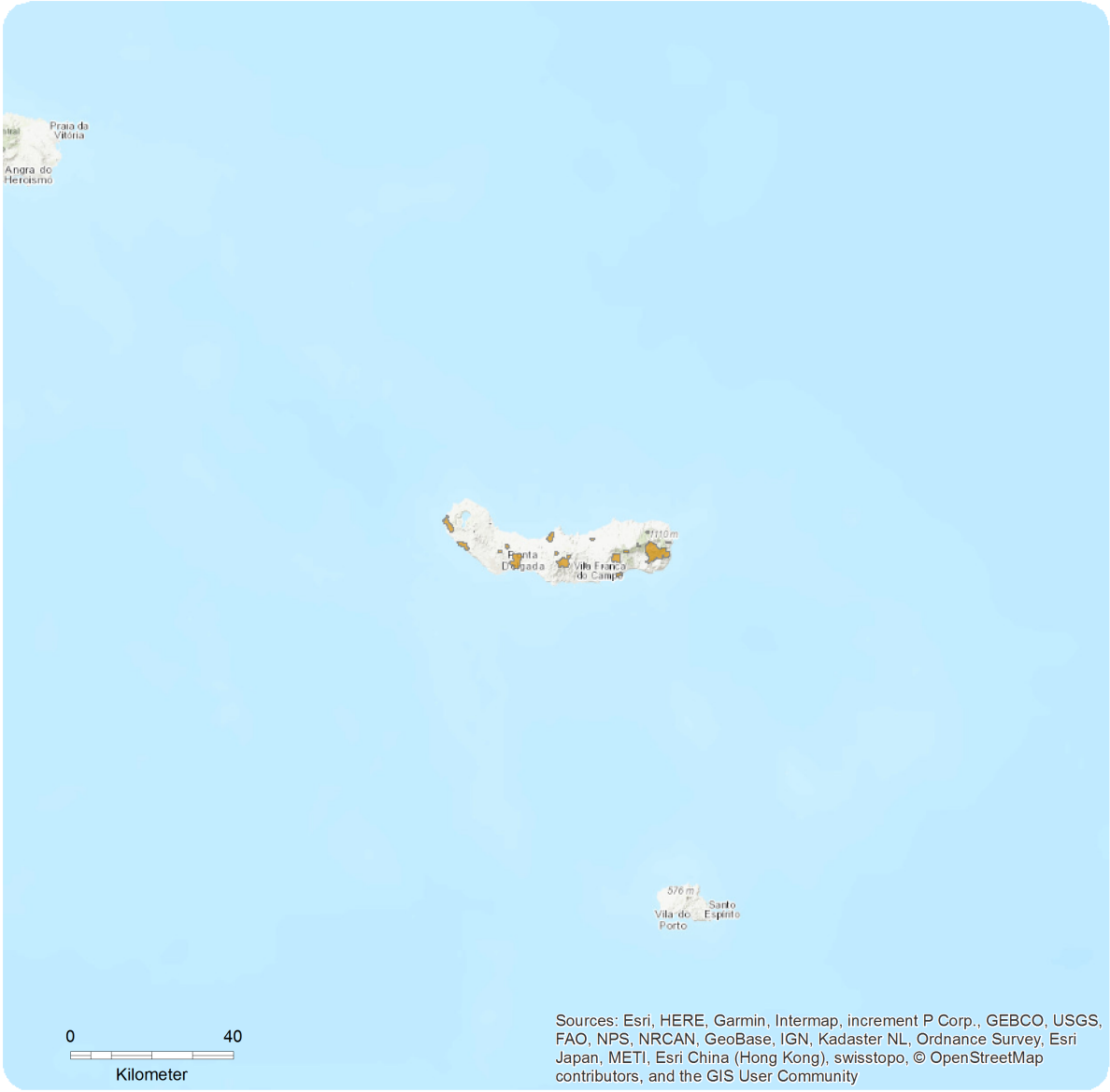
http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2018-1.RLTS.T97219031A99166799.en

Country Occurrence:

Native: Portugal (Azores)

Distribution Map

Cixius insularis

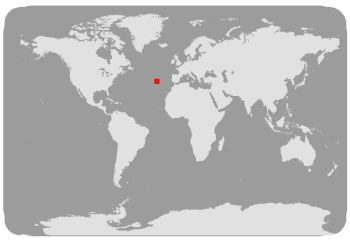


Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:

Paulo Borges



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

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Population

Cixius insularis is widespread and abundant in S. Miguel Island, occurring mostly in native vegetation but also in exotic or naturalised vegetation.

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species occurs mainly in the Azorean native forest. It is a generalist diurnal canopy phytophagous species that has been found on different native plants, but also in some exotic plants. Based on seasonal data from SLAM traps obtained in several islands between 2012 and 2016, the adults are active all year, being most abundant in spring and summer (Borges *et al.* 2017).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

The species is not utilised.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

In the past, the species has probably strongly declined due to changes in habitat size and quality (Triantis *et al.* 2010, Terzopoulou *et al.* 2015). However, the species seems to have survived in the remaining native forests of S. Miguel, as well as in some Human modified habitats. The main current threat is the spread of invasive species namely *Hedychium gardnerianum* and *Pittosporum undulatum*. Based on Ferreira *et al.* (2016) the habitat will further decline as a consequence of climate change (increasing number of droughts and habitat shifting & alteration).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

The species is not protected by regional law. Its habitat is in a regionally protected area (Natural Park of S. Miguel). Further research is needed to monitor the species and conservation measures to control the invasive plant *Hedychium gardnerianum* should be implemented to improve habitat quality for this species. Degraded habitats should be restored and a strategy needs to be developed to address the future threat by climate change. It is necessary a monitoring plan for the invertebrate community in the habitat in order to contribute to the conservation of this species. A habitat management plan is needed and anticipated to be developed during the coming years. Monitoring every ten years using the BALA protocol will inform about habitat quality (see e.g. Gaspar *et al.* 2010).

Credits

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Contributor(s): Lamelas-López, L.

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Terzopoulou, S., Rigal, F., Whittaker, R.J., Borges, P.A.V. & Triantis, K.A. 2015. Drivers of extinction: the case of Azorean beetles. *Biology Letters* 11: 1-4.

Triantis, K.A., Borges, P.A.V., Ladle, R.J., Hortal, J., Cardoso, P., Gaspar, C., Dinis, F., Mendonça, E., Silveira, L.M.A., Gabriel, R., Melo, C., Santos, A.M.C., Amorim, I.R., Ribeiro, S.P., Serrano, A.R.M., Quartau, J.A. and Whittaker, R.J. 2010. Extinction debt on oceanic islands. *Ecography* 33: 285-294.

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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 -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.4. Shrubland - Temperate	Resident	Suitable	Yes
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	Resident	Marginal	-
0. Root -> 16. Introduced vegetation	Resident	Marginal	-

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
10. Geological events -> 10.1. Volcanoes	Future	Whole (>90%)	Very rapid declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.1. Habitat shifting & alteration	Future	Whole (>90%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
11. Climate change & severe weather -> 11.2. Droughts	Ongoing	Whole (>90%)	Slow, significant declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.2. Wood & pulp plantations -> 2.2.1. Small-holder plantations	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Causing/could cause fluctuations	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases -> 8.1.2. Named species (Pittosporum undulatum)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
8. Invasive and other problematic species, genes & diseases -> 8.1. Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases -> 8.1.2. Named species (Hedychium gardnerianum)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 7

Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Action Recovery plan: No
Systematic monitoring scheme: Yes
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over part of range
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Actions Needed
2. Land/water management -> 2.1. Site/area management
2. Land/water management -> 2.2. Invasive/problematic species control
2. Land/water management -> 2.3. Habitat & natural process restoration
4. Education & awareness -> 4.1. Formal education
4. Education & awareness -> 4.3. Awareness & communications
5. Law & policy -> 5.4. Compliance and enforcement -> 5.4.3. Sub-national level

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
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends
3. Monitoring -> 3.4. Habitat trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km²): 208
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): Unknown
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km²): 633
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): Unknown
Number of Locations: 14
Continuing decline in number of locations: Yes
Extreme fluctuations in the number of locations: Unknown
Lower elevation limit (m): 10
Upper elevation limit (m): 1200
Population
Continuing decline of mature individuals: No
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes
Generation Length (years): 1
Movement patterns: Not a Migrant

The IUCN Red List Partnership

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The IUCN Red List Partners are: Arizona State University; BirdLife International; Botanic Gardens Conservation International; Conservation International; NatureServe; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Sapienza University of Rome; Texas A&M University; and Zoological Society of London.