

IUCN SSC Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group

2019 Report



Sérgio Henriques

Chair

Sérgio Henriques

Red List Authority

Sérgio Henriques

Location/Affiliation

Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, UK

Number of members

50

Social networks

Facebook:

IUCN SSC Spider & Scorpion Specialist Group

Instagram: iucnspidersg

Twitter: @IUCNSpiderSG

Website: <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/ssc-groups/invertebrates/spider-and-scorpion>



Mission statement

The main objectives of the Spider and Scorpion Specialist Group (SSSG) are: (1) assess, plan and act towards arachnid conservation in collaboration with the other IUCN Task Forces, Specialist Groups and the Invertebrate Conservation Committee; (2) assist on international law and agreements (e.g. Habitats Directive, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species – CITES) as well as towards national and regional legislation; (3) support and promote public knowledge of arachnids across different media; (4) develop scientifically sound species conservation strategies in cooperation with relevant authorities, to facilitate or mobilize resources for any activity promoting arachnid conservation, as well as those which promote the protection of their habitats; (5) identify gaps in expertise by taxa and/or region and engage with the global network of experts with a view to addressing these gaps, while increasing the diversity of active members.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

By the end of 2020, we expect to: (1) develop tools that facilitate Red List assessments, (2) significantly increase the number of assessed species, (3) reduce the extinction risk of a number of species, (4) provide advice on CITES species, and (5) increase and diversify our membership.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Assess

Red List: (1) Red List assessments for Sampled Red List Index (SRLI): 200 species; (2) Red List Nephilidae: 35 species; (3) Red List Archaeidae: 80 species; (4) Red List Macaronesian endemics: 170 species; (5) develop R package to assist Red Listing; (6) conduct two assessment workshops (for SRLI and CITES); (7) conduct one Red List assessment workshop.

Research activities: develop an IUCN Data Paper in *Biodiversity Data Journal*.

Plan

Planning: develop a Species Conservation Plan for *Hogna ingens* (Desertas Wolf Spider).

Policy: Red List CITES species: 25 species.

Act

Conservation activities: *ex situ* breeding of *Hogna ingens*.

Network

Capacity building: conduct four Red List teaching workshops.

Membership: increase the number and range of group membership.

Communicate

Communication: (1) conduct interviews with media outlets; (2) produce a group website.

Activities and results 2019

Assess

Red List

i. Support was awarded to conduct a Red List Assessment Workshop, but conflict in the region prevented entrance to be allowed in the country. We plan to use the funds to conduct another workshop in 2020. (KSR #1)



Male *Saitis barbipes*, the European Peacock Spider
Photo: Sergio Henriques

A member of the scorpion orders, probably *Buthus ibericus*. An endemic species to the Iberic Peninsula
Photo: Sergio Henriques



Network

Membership

i. We have recruited researchers, students, conservationists and outreach advocates into the SSSG, and efforts have been made to increase the geographic representation of the group. Still, the group’s range remains biased and we hope to procure support to address it.

Communicate

Communication

i. A number of interviews were given for a National Geographic series on illegal trade; an interview was recorded for a wild science podcast and another given to National Public Radio (NPR); an interview was also given for the online wildlife magazine *Wildier* (in Portuguese). (KSR #4, 28)

ii. The official website is running and available on the IUCN webpage, but improvements are still underway; this should remain a target for 2020. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

The group is sincerely grateful for an SSC Internal Grant Award and we hope to be able to use those funds in the near future. We are also grateful for the opportunity to attend the SSC Leaders’ Meeting in Abu Dhabi and for all the interesting discussion generated in that venue.



A female *Aculepeira armida*, one of the most colorful European spiders.
Photo: Sergio Henriques

Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 3/5

Assess	1	
Network	1	
Communicate	2	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 4, 28

KSR: Key Species Result