

Meroles suborbitalis* (Peters, 1869)*SPOTTED DESERT LIZARD**

Andrew A. Turner

Regional: Least Concern

Taxonomy: A very variable, widely distributed species. The possibility of significant population structuring and the presence of cryptic species should be investigated, particularly in the vicinity of the lower Orange River (Bauer & Branch 2003 [2001]; Branch *et al.* 2006a).

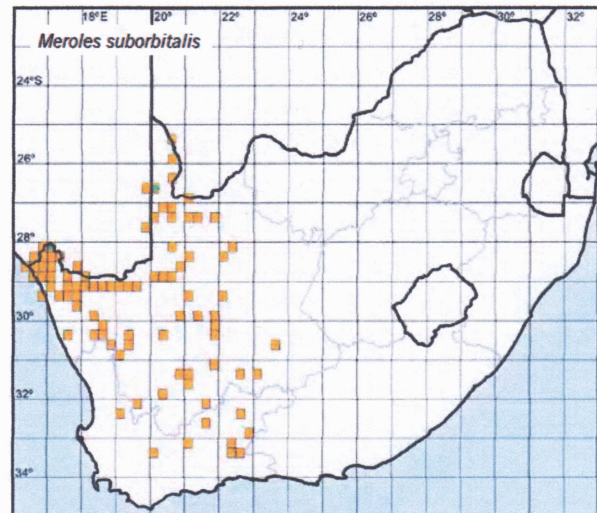
Distribution: Widely distributed from north-central Namibia to the Tankwa Karoo in the south, and eastwards to the southeastern Great Karoo (Branch 1998). In the *Atlas* region it occurs in the Northern and Western Cape provinces.

Habitat: Occupies open, sparsely-vegetated areas in desert and semi-desert (Branch 1998).

Biome: Succulent Karoo; Nama-Karoo; Desert; Savanna; Fynbos.

Assessment rationale: Widely distributed and fairly abundant in many parts. No known threats.

Conservation measures: None recommended.



Meroles suborbitalis—Farm Eselkopvlakte, WNW of Loeriesfontein, NC
M. Burger