

## Family Lacertidae

*Heliobolus lugubris* (Smith, 1838)

Bushveld Lizard

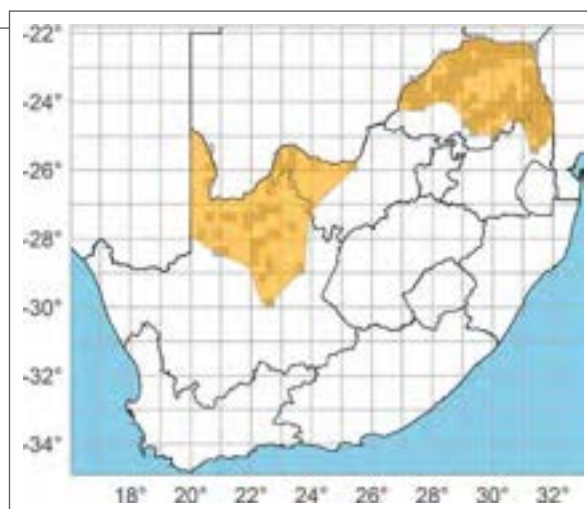
■ LC – Least Concern (Regional)

Assessors: Tolley, K.A., Turner, A.A.

**Previous Red List categories:**

2021: Least Concern (Global IUCN assessment).

2014: Least Concern (SARCA).

**Assessment rationale:** Widespread with no major threats.**Taxonomic notes:** No notable issues. *Other important names:* none.**Distribution:** Widely distributed from southern Angola through Namibia and Botswana to western and southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and South Africa (Branch 1998). The species enters South Africa from the north, in the mesic northeast and the arid northern Kalahari and Karoo regions, with these areas of the distribution connected through Botswana. *EOO:* 612 000 km<sup>2</sup>; *Distribution:* 246 000 km<sup>2</sup>.**Countries of occurrence:** Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe.**Habitat and ecology:** A common diurnal, terrestrial species that forages between grass tussocks and other vegetation on sandy substrates. Juveniles have aposematic colouration and mimic the foul-tasting and chemically defensive *oogpister* ground beetle (genus *Anthia*). *Habitat:* Savanna.**Threats:** There are no substantial threats to this species.**Population trend:** The population size is assumed to be stable because this is a widespread and abundant*Heliobolus lugubris*, Tshipise, Limpopo province (© C. Keates).*Heliobolus lugubris*, juvenile colouration, Lephalale, Limpopo province (© L. Verburgt).

species that occurs in areas that are not heavily impacted by habitat transformation.

**Conservation and research recommendations:** No recommendations.*Heliobolus lugubris*, Hoedspruit, Limpopo province (© L. Kemp).