



Listing Advice

Aprasia rostrata rostrata

Taxonomy

Aprasia rostrata rostrata (Monte Bello worm-lizard) was described using specimens from Hermite Island in Western Australia (Parker 1956) and was presumed to be endemic to the Montebello (or Monte Bello) Islands (Cogger 2000; TSSC 2008). A proposal to elevate to a species (Kluge 1974) was not accepted by all authorities (ABRS 2017; Cogger 2000) and was not followed in the EPBC Act list of threatened species.

More recently, *A. r. rostrata* is not considered a valid taxon. Maryan and colleagues (2013) conducted a taxonomic review of the *Aprasia repens* group, and *A. r. rostrata* and *Aprasia rostrata fusca* have been subsumed into *A. rostrata* (ABRS 2017; Maryan et al., 2013).

Aprasia rostrata occurs on Hermite and Trimouille Islands in the Montebello Islands and Barrow Island off the Pilbara coast and on the North West Cape, extending south to Yardie Creek and Learmonth Air Weapons Range and inland to Bullara Station (Maryan et al. 2013).

Aprasia rostrata appears to be widespread on the North West Cape as suggested by Storr and Hanlon (1980, cited in Maryan et al., 2013) and the Western Australian Threatened Species Scientific Committee has accepted that it does not meet the criteria for listing under IUCN criteria.

Reason for conservation assessment by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee

Aprasia rostrata rostrata is listed as Vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act). The subspecies is eligible for listing as prior to the commencement of the EPBC Act, it was listed as Vulnerable under Schedule 1 of the *Endangered Species Protection Act 1992* (Cwlth).

This advice follows assessment of new information provided to the Department to delist *A. r. rostrata*.

This assessment is due to current information on *A. r. rostrata*, stating the species is no longer considered a valid taxon.

Consideration for delisting

As *A. r. rostrata* is not considered to be a valid subspecies, delisting is not expected to have any negative impacts.

References cited in the advice

ABRS (Australian Biological Resources Study) (2017). *Australian Fauna Directory*. Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra. Available on the Internet: <https://biodiversity.org.au/afd/home>

Cogger HG (2000). *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia. Sixth Edition*. Reed New Holland.

Kluge AG (1974). A taxonomic revision of the lizard family Pygopodidae. *Miscellaneous Publications of the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan* 147: 1-221.

Maryan B, Bush BG & Adams M (2013). Morphological and molecular assessment of *Aprasia fusca* and *A. rostrata* (Squamata: Pygopodidae), with a description of a new species from the Lake MacLeod region, Western Australia. *Records of the Western Australian Museum* 28: 144-163.

- Parker HW (1956). The lizard genus *Aprasia*, its taxonomy and temperature correlated variation. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Zoology* 3: 365-385.
- TSSC (Threatened Species Scientific Committee) (2008). *Commonwealth Conservation Advice on Aprasia rostrata rostrata (Hermite Island Worm-lizard)*. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.