

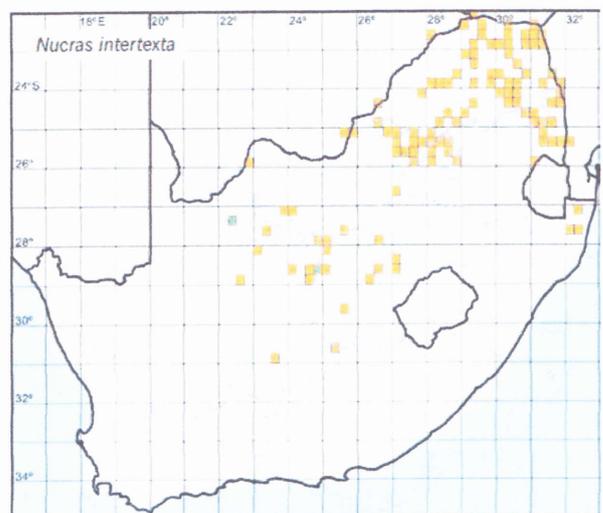
***Nucras intertexta* (A. Smith, 1838)**
SPOTTED SANDVELD LIZARD

Marius Burger

Regional: Least Concern

Taxonomy: Previous assessments of the *Nucras tessellata* complex, which includes *N. intertexta*, presented various morphological characters to distinguish between the taxa (Broadley 1972; Jacobsen 1989; Bates 1996a). A molecular phylogeny of *Nucras* confirmed the species status of *N. intertexta*, which is the sister species of *N. ornata* (Edwards *et al.* 2013b).

Distribution: Due to the taxonomic confusion regarding the *N. tessellata* complex, our understanding of the distribution of *N. intertexta* is inadequate. The distribution map approximates the appraisal of Broadley (1972) but was amended according to the subsequent assessments of Jacobsen (1989), Bates (1996a) and Bourquin (2004), with the addition of new records. Globally, the species oc-



curs in Namibia, Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, southern Mozambique and South Africa (Branch 1998). Within the *Atlas* region it is distributed in the central (Free State, Northern Cape, North-West Province) and northeastern (Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Gauteng) parts, with an isolated population in northeastern KwaZulu-Natal. It may also occur in Swaziland.

Habitat: A terrestrial species associated with sandy substrates, usually Kalahari sands, in relatively arid savanna

and open scrubland. The altitudinal range in the *Atlas* region is 300–1 400 m (Jacobsen 1989; Branch 1998; Bourquin 2004).

Biome: Savanna; Grassland; Nama-Karoo.

Assessment rationale: Common and widely distributed in the *Atlas* region, extending into several other countries to the north.

Conservation measures: None recommended.



Nucras intertexta, adult—Farm Blackridge, NE of Groblershoop, NC
M. Burger



Nucras intertexta, juvenile—Skukuza, Kruger NP, MPM
G.J. Alexander