

# IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group



## 2018 Report



Axel Hochkirch



Mark Bushell

### **Co-Chairs:**

Axel Hochkirch <sup>(1)</sup>  
Mark Bushell <sup>(2)</sup>

### **Red List Authority Coordinator**

Baudewijn Odé <sup>(3)</sup>

### **Location/Affiliation:**

- <sup>(1)</sup> Trier University, Germany
- <sup>(2)</sup> Bristol Zoo, UK
- <sup>(3)</sup> FLORON, Amsterdam, Netherlands

### **Number of members**

101

### **Social networks**

Facebook:  
IUCN SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group



### **Mission statement**

The mission of our group is to foster the conservation of orthopteroid insects (grasshoppers, katydids, crickets, mantids, stick insects) and their habitats around the world. We assess their conservation status, raise awareness and engage in practical conservation of this amazing and highly diverse group of insects.

### **Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium**

By the end of 2020, we want to increase the number of Orthoptera, Phasmida and Mantodea species on the IUCN Red List by ca. 1,000 species. This will help to raise awareness for this species group and foster research and conservation activities. We are particularly interested in engaging local park managers to consider grasshoppers, bush-crickets, crickets, stick insects and mantids in conservation planning, monitoring and management. We want to increase the number of conservation strategies for threatened Orthoptera species and help to implement these plans. This will help to avoid future extinctions and set best practice examples for other projects.

### **Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium**

#### **Assess**

Red List: (1) complete Red List assessments of 400 Tanzanian Orthoptera species, 17 Bladder Grasshoppers (Family Pneumoridae), 84 Agile Grasshoppers (Subfamily Euryphyminae), 36 European mantises, 80 Mediterranean mantises, 4 Razor-backed bush-hoppers (Xyrotidae), 3 Tanaoceridae grasshoppers, 270 Malagasy grasshoppers, 29 Socotran endemic

Orthoptera, 68 Dichoroplini grasshoppers from South America, and 30 grasshoppers from Western Ghats (India); (2) complete Sampled Red List Index for Orthoptera (1,500 species by the end of 2024).

Research activities: (1) develop and implement a population monitoring programme for the Critically Endangered *Prionotropis rhodanica*; (2) develop monitoring standards for Orthoptera in Europe.

#### **Plan**

Planning: (1) develop a conservation strategy for the Endangered *Zeuneriana marmorata* in Slovenia and Italy; (2) develop a conservation strategy for the Critically Endangered *Peripodisma ceraunii* in Albania.

### **Activities and results 2018**

#### **Assess**

##### **Red List**

- i.** Assessments of 139 Tanzanian Orthoptera species completed. (KSR #1)
- ii.** Assessments of 17 Bladder Grasshoppers (Family Pneumoridae) completed. (KSR #1)
- iii.** Assessments of 84 Agile Grasshoppers (Subfamily Euryphyminae) completed. (KSR #1)
- iv.** Assessments of 36 European mantises completed and currently under review. (KSR #2)
- v.** Assessment of 80 Mediterranean mantises started. (KSR #2)
- vi.** Assessment of 81 Malagasy grasshoppers completed. (KSR #2)
- vii.** Assessments of 200 Orthoptera completed for the Sampled Red List Index. (KSR #1)
- viii.** Some assessments of Dichoroplini grasshoppers from South America completed. (KSR #1)

Detection dog for Crau Plain Grasshopper  
with grasshopper on nose  
Photo: Axel Hochkirch



*Empusa fasciata*  
Photo: Axel Hochkirch



In situ breeding facilities, Crau Plain Grasshopperboxes  
Photo: Axel Hochkirch

### Research activities

- i.** A monitoring protocol for the Critically Endangered *Prionotropis rhodanica* has been optimised to minimise field effort. This has been applied for the first time in 2018 with success. Currently, detection dogs are trained to further optimise the method. (KSR #12)
- ii.** A monitoring protocol for Orthoptera in Europe is currently being developed by Tim Gardiner. (KSR #32)

### Plan

#### Planning

- i.** Conservation plans for the Endangered *Zeuneriana marmorata* in Slovenia and Italy are currently being implemented. (KSR #21)
- ii.** A proposal has been sent to National Geographic to support a conservation planning workshop and related work for the Critically Endangered *Peripodisma ceraunii* in Albania. (KSR #21)

### Acknowledgements

We are particularly grateful for the constant support by the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund as well as to National Geographic for funding the implementation of the Crau Plain Grasshopper Strategy in France. Furthermore, we would like to thank Toyota for providing funding to continue with the Red List assessments for the Sampled Red List Index. We are also grateful to all Orthopterists who have helped us with the assessments.

### Summary of activities 2018

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 2/5

Assess	10	
Plan	2	

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 2, 12, 21, 32

KSR: Key Species Result