

Grasshopper Specialist Group

Co-Chairs: Axel Hochkirch and Mark Bushell

Red List Authority Coordinator: Baudewijn Odé

Location/affiliation: Axel Hochkirch is based in Trier (Germany) at Trier University. Mark Bushell is based in Bristol (UK) at Bristol Zoological Society.

Number of members: 74 members from 30 countries



Axel Hochkirch



Mark Bushell

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.

Summary of main activities in 2014

A strategic planning workshop was held in June for *Prionotropis hystrix rhodanica*, a Critically Endangered grasshopper from southern France. The conservation action plan for this subspecies was finalized in

summer 2014 and will be implemented in the coming years. The number of assessments of Orthoptera for the IUCN Red List was increased by 205 to 441 species. These assessments include all known bush-cricket species of South Africa, which were assessed by Corinna Bazelet and Piotr Naskrecki. Additionally, one mantis species was re-assessed (Roberto Battiston). The fourth issue of the GSG newsletter “*Newshopper*” was published and widely circulated.

Phalangacris alluaudi, Critically Endangered. © Lucy Neumann and Dominik Schwab



Red List assessments of all European species of Orthoptera are now funded by the European Commission (starting November 2014). We participated at the World Parks Congress, where we showed the film “Sticky” on the recovery of the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect. The director (Jilli Rose) was present as well as some living insects. Many GSG members are involved in research projects for Orthoptera conservation, including research on habitat preferences and distribution of rare Orthoptera on the Seychelles, the feeding ecology of the La Palma Stick Grasshopper (*Acrostira euphorbiae*) and an evaluation of the translocation success of the Mercury Islands Tusked Weta (*Motuweta isolata*).

Future goals/activities

The European Red List of Orthoptera will be completed by 2016. The implementation of the conservation strategy for *Prionotropis hystrix rhodanica* will be continued in 2015 and a breeding program will be started in Thoiry Zoo. New Red List assessments are planned for South American and Mexican species of Orthoptera, Tanzanian bush-crickets, European mantids and a re-assessment of *Dryococelus australis* as well as new assessments for several other species. We also plan to identify other priority species of Orthoptera for strategic conservation planning.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten- und Populationsschutz (ZGAP), Trier University, and Bristol Zoological Society.