CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Nineteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties Panama City (Panama), 14 – 25 November 2022

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENT OF APPENDICES I AND II

A. Proposal

Include the genus *Phrynosoma* in CITES Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2a of the Convention text, as well as Criterion A of Annexes 2a and 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17) as follows:

- a) *P. platyrhinos, P. asio, P. taurus, P. orbiculare, P. braconnieri, P. modestum* and *P. solare* in accordance with Criterion A of Annex 2a of Res. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).
- b) All the other species of *Phrynosoma* in accordance with Criterion A of Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).
- B. Proponent

Mexico*

C. Supporting statement

1. <u>Taxonomy</u>

- 1.1 Class: Reptilia
- 1.2 Order: Squamata
- 1.3 Family: Phrynosomatidae
- 1.4 Genus, species or subspecies, including author and year:

Phrynosoma asio COPE, 1864 Phrynosoma bauri MONTANUCCI, 2015 Phrynosoma blainvillii GRAY, 1839 Phrynosoma braconnieri DUMÉRIL & BOCOURT, 1870 Phrynosoma brevirostris (GIRARD, 1858) Phrynosoma cerroense STEJNEGER, 1893 Phrynosoma cornutum (HARLAN, 1825) Phrynosoma coronatum (BLAINVILLE, 1835) Phrynosoma diminutum MONTANUCCI, 2015

^{*} The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

Phrynosoma ditmarsi STEJNEGER, 1906 Phrynosoma douglasii (BELL, 1829) Phrynosoma goodei STEJNEGER, 1893 Phrynosoma hernandesi GIRARD, 1858 Phrynosoma mcallii (HALLOWELL, 1852) Phrynosoma modestum GIRARD, 1852 Phrynosoma orbiculare (LINNAEUS, 1758) Phrynosoma ornatissimum (GIRARD, 1858) Phrynosoma platyrhinos GIRARD, 1852 Phrynosoma sherbrookei NIETO-MONTES DE OCA, ARENAS-MORENO, BELTRÁN-SÁNCHEZ & LEACHÉ, 2014 Phrynosoma solare GRAY, 1845 Phrynosoma taurus BOCOURT, 1870

1.5 Scientific synonyms:

1.6	Common names:	s: English:	Horned lizards	
		French:	Lézard cornu	
		Spanish:	Lagarto cornudo, camaleón, tapayaxin	

1.7 Code numbers:

2. <u>Overview</u>

The genus *Phrynosoma* is limited to North America, from the south of Canada to Mexico, with the exception of one species, *Phrynosoma asio*, which has been reported from Guatemala based on anecdotal data but has never been seen or collected (MSc Daniel Ariano, pers. comm. 2021). It includes 21 species, several of which have been recently discovered, such as *P. sherbrookei* in 2014 (Uetz et al 2020; Nieto et al 2014), or have been upgraded to species level, such as *P. bauri* and *P. diminutum* in 2015 (Montanucci 2015). However, the taxonomy is still under debate, as some authors recognize 17 species (Sherbrooke 2020) while others consider there are only 12 (Kohler 2021). IUCN has classified *P. mcallii* as Near Threatened, 12 species as Least Concern (*P. blainvillii*, *P. braconnieri*, *P. cornutum*, *P. coronatum*, *P. douglasii*, *P. goodei*, *P. hernandezi*, *P. modestum*, *P. orbiculare*, *P. platyrhinos*, *P. solare*, *P. taurus*) and *P. ditmarsi* as Data Deficient (IUCN, 2021). In 1992, four species were included in CITES Appendix II: *P. coronatum*, *P. blainvillii*, *P. braconsider* a synonym of *P. cerroense* (Leache & Linkem 2015).

Phrynosoma species have a highly specialized diet consisting mainly of ants (myrmecophagy), which make up 90% of the diet of some species such as *P. orbiculare*, *P. solare* and *P. platyrhinos* (Rojas et al 2016; Sherbrooke, 2003). Horned lizards face threats such as habitat destruction, livestock farming, the impact of invasive species, climate change, and legal and illegal overharvest for the domestic and international pet trade. Every year, thousands of individuals of *Phrynosoma* are internationally traded, most of them wild collected, and there is illegal domestic and international trade of these lizards. Most wild caught horned lizards die within a year of captivity due to the difficulty of providing their specialized diet (Alsup, 2013).

Thousands of individuals of *Phrynosoma* are internationally traded each year. The vast majority are wild harvested and there is illegal domestic and international trade of these taxa. Most horned lizards taken from the wild die before they have been held in captivity for a year due to a poor diet (Alsup, 2013). From 2006 to 2015, the United States exported 21,393 specimens of at least nine species of *Phrynosoma* to European and Asian countries. Mexico started to export individuals of *Phrynosoma* for commercial purposes in 2019 and the number of exports is growing. *Phrynosoma* species are becoming consolidated in the reptile pet trade and collectors seek different and unusual species. There is illegal trade of several species endemic to Mexico that are offered for sale in European countries although there are no records of any legal commercial exports.

Identification at the species level is difficult for non-experts because there is ongoing debate about the taxonomy of the genus, and authors recognize 12 to 21 species (Uetz et al 2020; Sherbrooke 2020; Kohler 2021). Correct species identification requires assessing a series of characteristics such as the number of rows of dorsal scales, the notch between the horns, the number of horns, the length of the tail, the dorsal stripes, etc. (Sherbrooke, 2003). Identification is more difficult in juvenile specimens, which only develop some characteristics such as the large horns once they reach maturity (Pianka & Parker 1975).

The inclusion of the whole genus in Appendix II would facilitate the task of customs inspectors and deter illegal international trade of rare, threatened and endemic species.

3. Species characteristics

3.1 Distribution

P. asio is endemic to Mexico (states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, Michoacán, Colima, Chiapas, Morelos, Jalisco), with anecdotal reports of its occurrence in Guatemala; P. bauri is endemic to the United States (Colorado, Nebraska, SE Wyoming, NE New Mexico); P. blainvillii occurs in the USA (California) and Mexico (Baja California); P. braconnieri is endemic to Mexico (southern end of the Central Mexican Plateau; semiarid parts of the states of Puebla and Oaxaca); P. brevirostris occurs in Canada (S Alberta, S Saskatchewan) and the USA (Wyoming, W North Dakota, W South Dakota, W Nebraska, Utah, Colorado); P. cerroense is endemic to Mexico (Isla Cerros, Cuesta Coyote, Bahía Concepción, Baja California Sur); P. cornutum occurs in the USA (from Colorado and Kansas south to Texas and west to Arizona) and Mexico (throughout the Mexican Plateau as far south as Aguascalientes, San Luis Potosí and Zacatecas); P. coronatum is found in the USA (California) and Mexico (Baja California); P. diminutum is endemic to the USA (Colorado, probably N New Mexico); P. ditmarsi is endemic to Mexico (Sonora); P. douglasii is found in Canada (SC British Columbia), the USA (Washington, Oregon, N California, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, W North Dakota, W South Dakota, W Nebraska, N California, N Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, W Texas) and Mexico (Chihuahua); P. goodei occurs in Mexico (coast of the Gulf of California in Sonora) and the USA (Gila River and Tucson in Arizona); P. hernandezi occurs in Canada (Alberta, Saskatchewan), the USA (New Mexico, W Texas, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, South Dakota, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon) and Mexico (NE Sonora, Chihuahua); P. mcallii occurs in Mexico (NW Sonora, NE Baja California) and the USA (SE Arizona and SE California); P. modestum is distributed in Mexico (on the Mexican Plateau from Chihuahua and Coahuila south to Aguascalientes, San Luis Potosí and Zacatecas) and the USA (SE Colorado, W Texas, S New Mexico, SE Arizona); P. orbiculare is endemic to Mexico (from the Sierra Madres Occidental and Oriental and the Mexican Plateau south to Puebla and Veracruz, and to W Chihuahua and the eastern end of Sonora); P. ornatissimum occurs in the USA (New Mexico, Texas) and Mexico (Durango, Chihuahua, Zacatecas); P. platyrhinos is found in the USA (E Oregon, S Idaho, Nevada, E Utah, SW California, W Arizona) and Mexico (Baja California Norte); P. sherbrookei is endemic to Mexico (central Guerrero); P. solare occurs in Mexico (Sonora, N Sinaloa) and the USA (SE New Mexico and Arizona); P. taurus is endemic to Mexico (Morelos, Puebla, Oaxaca, Guerrero) (Uetz et al 2020; Aguilar & Devender, 2018; Nieto et al 2014).

3.2 Habitat

P. orbiculare is associated with pine-oak forests at elevations of 1,500-3,400 m (Suarez et al 2018; Bryson et al 2012). P. asio is found in savanna, dry forest, secondary forest and agricultural areas (Canseco et al 2013). P. sherbrookei inhabits oak forests with patches of grassland and scrub with Agave spp. and other herbaceous plants (Nieto et al 2014). P. cerroense lives in arid and semiarid rocky and sandy areas with scrub (Ramírez et al 2004). P. taurus is found in high desert, arid scrub and even tropical dry forest but can also persist in traditional pastures (Canseco et al 2007). P. ditmarsi lives in rocky sites in evergreen oak and pine forests, deciduous forests and thorny scrub (Frost et al 2007). P. hernandezi is found in forest, shrubland, grassland, rocky areas, inland cliffs, mountain peaks and desert habitats (Hammerson, 2007). P. braconnieri inhabits primary and secondary tropical deciduous forest, scrubland and primary oak forest. It can be found in traditional agricultural areas such as corn fields (Canseco et al 2007). P. coronatum occurs in scrubland, grassland, coniferous woods and broadleaf woodlands; it is typically found in areas with sandy soil, scattered shrubs and ant colonies, such as along the edges of arroyo bottoms or dirt roads (Grismer 2002). P. platyrhinus inhabits desert shrublands, such as those dominated by sagebrush or shadscale, on sandy flats, alluvial fans, brushy dunes or dune edges (Grismer 2002, St. John 2002). P. cornutum is found in open arid and semiarid regions with sparse vegetation (deserts, prairies, playa edges, bajadas, dunes, foothills) with grass, cacti or scattered brush or scrubby trees (Degenhardt et al. 1996, Bartlett & Bartlett 1999). P. mcallii occurs in sandy desert flats with sparse vegetation; in low hills and mud hills, it is most common where superficial soils have loose or windblown sand but is rarely found in dunes (Hammerson et al 2007).

3.3 Biological characteristics

The genus Phrynosoma includes 11 viviparous species: *P. bauri, P. brevirostris, P. douglasii, P. diminutum, P. ditmarsi. P. braconnieri, P. hernandesi, P. ornatissimum, P. orbiculare P. sherbrookei* and *P. taurus*, and 10 oviparous species: *P. asio, P. blainvillii. P, cerroense, P. cornutum, P. coronatum,*

P. goodei, p. mcallii, P. modestum, P. platyrhinus and P. solare (Nieto et al 2014; Sherbrooke 2003; Uetz et al 2020, Hammerson 2019). Viviparity is an adaptation to cold climates, very northern latitudes and high elevations that do not allow egg laying in the soil because of low temperatures or short warm seasons (Sherbrook, 2003). P. orbiculare breeds in autumn and winter (Suarez et al 2018). In Texas, the breeding season for P. cornutum begins shortly after the spring and continues until mid-July (Milne & Milne 1950). Eggs are deposited in 2 to 3 layers and each layer is covered with soil (Reeve 1952, Sherbrooke 1981). Once laying is completed, the female refills the hole with excavated soil, rakes the surrounding surface to disguise the nest (Ramsey 1956) and leaves the site (Sherbrooke 1981). Clutch sizes for horned lizards range from 13 to 45 eggs (Milne & Milne 1950, Ballinger 1974, Pianka & Parker 1975, Sherbrooke 1981). Females of Phrynosoma platyrhinos produce one or two clutches between April and July and bury their eggs in the soil. Clutch size averages about 7. Incubation lasts about 50-60 days. Hatchlings appear from mid-July to mid-September; time of birth slightly differs throughout the range of the species (NatureServe 2021). Clutch size is 8.3-9.4 in P. orbiculare, 5.5 in P. sherbrookei, 7-8.4 in P. braconnieri, 12.3 in P. taurus, 8.5-16 in P. douglasii and 11.3 in P. ditmarsi (Suarez et al 2018; Nieto et al 2014; Beltrán et al 2005; Zamudio et al 2000; Pianka & Parker, 1975; Montanucci, 1989; Powell et al 1991). P. platyrhinos has a lifespan of 7 to 8 years (Medica et al. 1973; Tanner & Krogh 1973) and reaches sexual maturity at about 22 months (Tanner and Krogh 1973; Nussbaum et al. 1983). Phrynosoma species have a highly specialized diet consisting mainly of ants (myrmecophagy), which make up 90% of the diet of some species such as P. orbiculare, P. solare and P. platyrhinos (Rojas et al 2016; Sherbrooke, 2003). In Canada, 76.9% of the diet of P. brevirostris is composed of ants (Powell et al 1984). P. douglasii consumes 71% of ants (Lahti et al 2008). P. asio has a lifespan of 12 to 13 years (Uetz et al 2020). P. platyrhinos has a lifespan of 7 to 8 years (Medica et al. 1973; Tanner & Krogh 1973) and reaches sexual maturity at about 22 months (Tanner and Krogh 1973; Nussbaum et al. 1983). Some species squirt blood from the ocular area as a defensive strategy against predators, mainly canids (Sherbrooke, 2003). Phrynosoma are mainly diurnal lizards, but some species have crepuscular and nocturnal activities on moonlit nights, including foraging for food, as happens with P. asio in Michoacán, Mexico (Raya, 2014).

3.4 Morphological characteristics

Horned lizards have dorsoventrally compressed bodies, with sharp occipital spines; they have relatively short legs, a lateral fringe of enlarged spiny scales, cryptic colours, and a specialized dentition that facilitates ant-eating (Barras, 2018; Sheerbrooke, 2003; Pianka & Parker 1975). The spines or horns in the occipital region serve as a protection from predators (Young et al 2004). Species such as *P. ditmarsi, P. braconnieri, P. taurus* and *P. sherbrookei* have a very short tail (Sherbrooke, 2003; Nieto et al 2014). The genus *Phrynosoma* is unusual in that females are much larger than males (Zamudio, 1998; Pianka & Parker 1975). *P. diminutum* is the smallest, with an average snout-vent length of 43 mm in males and 54 mm in females, while *P. asio* is the largest, with an average snout-vent length that can exceed 120 mm (Sherbrooke, 2003; Hammerson, 1999).

3.5 Role of the species in its ecosystem

Horned lizards play a unique and important role in the ecosystem as regulators of populations of ants and other insects and as part of the food chain (Raya, 2013, Sherbrooke, 2003). They can eat up to 70-100 ants per day (Sherbrooke 2003). Their predators include bobcats, skunks, raccoons, hawks, owls, roadrunners, shrikes, crows, snakes, large lizards, etc. (Henke et al 1998, Young et al, 2004, Sherbrooke, 2003).

- 4. State and trends
 - 4.1 Habitat trends

Lizards of the Phrynosomatidae family cannot evolve fast enough to withstand current climate change due to their limitations resulting from their genetic architecture of thermal preferences (Sinervo et al 2010); moreover, their habitats are being eroded or fragmented. In California, USA, *P. mcallii* has experienced 92% habitat loss (Barrow et al 2009) and *P. blainvillii* is suffering from habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation (Hult et al 2015). *P. coronatum* is experiencing population declines and local extirpations that are more marked in agricultural and urban areas. A key factor contributing to these declines is the destruction of native chaparral habitats with sandy substrates (Leaché et al 2009). In Mexico, *P. cerroense* is being affected by intensive agriculture in the Magdalena Plains which could destroy a significant part of its range (Leaché et al 2009). *P. cornutum* has declined in its entire area of distribution, especially in Oklahoma and Texas, due to habitat loss and alteration resulting from agriculture and urbanization (Endriss et al, 2007; Carpenter et al 1993; Price, 1990; Henke et al 1998).

The loss and fragmentation of the habitat of *P. platyrhinos* has been due to urbanization, agricultural development, energy development, the use of off-road vehicles, livestock grazing, drought and the impacts of non-native species (Hammerson et al. 2019; NatureServe 2021).

4.2 Population size

In the state of Guerrero, Mexico, population density is 1,012 ind/ha. for *P. asio* and 0.28 ind/ha. for *P. taurus* (Villanueva, 2016). *P. mcallii:* the population is severely fragmented, with an ongoing decline of mature individuals. In the summer of 2002, its population in the Yuha Basin (24,122 ha) was estimated at 18,494 adults and 8,685 juveniles (Hammerson et al, 2007). *P. coronatum:* its area of occupancy and population size appear to have declined significantly in California, but much less so in Baja California. Both are likely to continue to decline, but the rate of decline is unknown (Hollingsworth et al 2007). *P. blainvilli:* the total size of the adult population is unknown but presumably exceeds 10,000 and may be greater than 100,000 in its area of occupancy (Hammerson, 2019). No studies have explored the population size of *P. platyrhinos* in its entire range or at local level. The total size of the adult population is unknown but is believed to exceed 100,000 individuals (Hammerson et al. 2019; NatureServe 2021).

4.3 Population structure

In Guerrero, the population of *P. asio* was made up of 60.32% males and 39.68% females and that of *P. taurus* consisted of 33.33% males and 66.66% females (Villanueva, 2016). The sex ratio at birth of *P. orbiculare* in Toluca, Mexico, was 1:1 (Suarez et al 2018). In San Joaquin, California, the population of *P. blainvillii* was composed of 30.3% adults and the sex ratio was 1:1.2 (females-males), whereas the population of juveniles was female-biased, 1:0.57 (females-males) (Hult et al 2015). The sex ratio of *P. platyrhinos* is not significantly biased (Pianka & Parker 1975).

4.4 Population trends

In the 1970s, students of the University of Arizona collected a large number of individuals of *P. cornutum* and *P. modestum* near Agua Prieta and Naco, Sonora. By contrast, only a few individuals have been observed recently in these areas, although the species is still common in other states (Aguilar et al 2018). *P. mcallii* has declined in the last few decades, apparently due to anthropogenic habitat fragmentation (Beauchamp in Endris et al 2007). In California, from 2002 to 2005 in stabilized sand fields, populations of *P. mcallii* declined by 50% every year and experienced an overall decline of 90% (Barrows et al 2009). *P. cornutum* has declined in its entire range, particularly in Oklahoma (Carpenter et al 1993), and has declined in central and eastern Texas (Johnson, 2008; Price, 1990). In Colorado, USA, the population of *P. cornutum* seems to be relatively stable (Montgomery et al 2003). Populations of *P. blainvilli* in California have experienced serious declines in the entire range, and in some sites where populations used to be abundant there are currently very few individuals or none (Hult et al 2015; Hammerson 2019). Horned lizards are now protected in Oklahoma and Texas and their collection is illegal; however, where their harvest used to be common, some populations may not have entirely recovered yet (Oklahoma Wildlife Department, 2021).

4.5 Geographic trends

Phrynosoma asio has been reported from Guatemala based on anecdotal data, but has never been seen or collected and may be extirpated (MSc Daniel Ariano, pers. comm. 2021). *P. douglasii* is considered extirpated in Canada and, for *P. hernandezi*, it is likely that subpopulations in at least some sites were extirpated in the last two decades (COSEWIC 2018 and 2019). It is believed that the geographic range of *P. platyrhinos* is relatively stable or slowly declining (NatureServe 2021). However, habitat loss and fragmentation have locally reduced or destroyed the habitat that used to be suitable in the range of the species (NatureServe 2021).

5. <u>Threats</u>

The introduction of invasive ant species from Brazil and Argentina affects *Phrynosoma* lizards in California and Texas because the ants are not eaten by the lizards and displace their favourite prey (Manaster, 2002; Henke et al 1998). The use of insecticides to combat Brazilian fire ants may have been detrimental to *P. cornutum*, either directly or through elimination of its natural prey base (Henke et al 1998; Price, 1990). Other factors are the use of agricultural pesticides, collection for the pet trade, climate change, changes in land use such as urbanization, the conversion of land to agriculture, the growth of woody plants and the

invasion of the mixed-grass prairie by other plant species (Granberg et al 2015; Sinervo et al 2010; Sherbrooke 2003, Pianka & Parker 1975). In Sonora, the introduction of African grass may prevent the movement of some species including horned lizards (Phrynosoma) (Rorabaugh 2008). P. platyrhinos shows a preference for areas with sparse vegetation and may avoid areas invaded by non-native grasses (Bromus tectorum) (Newbold 2005). The presence of grass reduces the sprint performance of P. platyrhinos by 50 to 70 per cent compared to its bare-substrate speed (Newbold 2005). Grass grows widely in the range of the species and has probably reduced the distribution and abundance of P. platyrhinos (NatureServe 2021). Populations of the species have been locally reduced or eliminated due to habitat loss, fragmentation and direct mortality as a result of urbanization, agricultural development, energy development, recreational offroad vehicle use, livestock grazing, drought, pesticides and impacts of non-native species (Hammerson et al. 2019; NatureServe 2021). Habitat loss displaces individuals and populations, while fragmentation creates a barrier for dispersal, prevents population growth by immigration and may fragment populations into units that are not large enough for long-term viability (NatureServe 2021). Commercial exploitation and mortality resulting from road kills are additional factors causing the decline of the population in Texas (Price, 1990). From the 1890s to the 1930s, 8,000 horned lizards were collected every year in California, depleting local populations (Manaster, 2002). In Mexico, horned lizards are harvested from their habitat because they are tame and showy animals and therefore are highly appreciated for selling illegally on the black market and in pet shops (Raya, 2013). Because of their highly specialized diet, consisting mainly of ants, it is very difficult to meet their dietary requirements; as a result, they make poor pets and die of starvation (Casas, 2000). People have tried to keep them as pets only to find out they are difficult to keep alive in captivity (Sherbrooke, 2003). In Canada, P. hernandezi faces numerous threats associated with urbanization, tourism infrastructure and activities, agricultural activities, oil and gas drilling and climate change. These threats contribute to habitat loss, degradation or fragmentation and/or cause direct and indirect mortality (COSEWIC 2018).

6. <u>Utilization and trade</u>

6.1 National utilization

In Chihuahua, Mexico, horned lizards of the genus *Phrynosoma* are often harvested for the pet trade and are offered for sale in local markets and markets of Mexico City (Fitzgerald et al 2004). In Capulálpam de Méndez, Oaxaca, horned lizards (*P. braconnieri*) are used for medicinal purposes (Mases, 2015). *P. orbiculare* and *P. taurus* are used for various purposes in Mexico, so they are have a high score on the Cultural Importance Index (Avila et al 2018). Horned lizards such as *P. orbiculare* are popularly believed to live on air because, in captivity, they normally refuse to eat and die of starvation a few weeks later (Casas, 2000). They are believed by some to be useful to attract money if placed in a chest filled with iron filings (Fitzgerald et al 2004). *P. cornutum, P. orbiculare and P. modestum* are used for traditional medicinal purposes in the state of Chihuahua (Fitzgerald et al 2004).

Horned lizards are often sold as pets in the United States even though they rapidly die in captivity (Aguilar & Devender, 2018). The collection of horned lizards to sell in the pet trade may have affected several populations, especially near towns and cities (Oklahoma Wildlife Department 2021). Hundreds of thousands of horned lizards were shipped out of California, Oklahoma and Texas and sold for pets in eastern United States and Europe from the early 1900s until the 1980s (Dropkin, 2015; Pianka et al 2007; Oklahoma Wildlife Department 2021; Jennings 1987). In the 1950s, a single pet dealer in Texas was selling more than 50,000 horned lizards every year (Dropkin, 2015). In 1967, the Texas legislature passed protective legislation preventing collection, exportation and sale of *P. cornutum* from the state. Before that, hundreds of thousands of horned lizards were exported (dead and alive) from Texas every summer to tourists, curiosity seekers and would be pet owners, leading only to the demise of the lizards (Pianka et al 2007). If a horned lizard has adequate fat reserves it can live for months in an inadequate captive environment, but it is certain death for almost all the collected lizards (Pianka et al 2007).

6.2 Legal trade

Species of *Phrynosoma* are internationally traded for the pet trade. In the USA, data on *Phrynosoma* exports extracted from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Law Enforcement Management Information System ("LEMIS") from 2006 to 2015 show that 21,393 live specimens of at least nine *Phrynosoma* species were exported, including 54 *P. asio, P. taurus* and *P. braconnieri*, which are endemic to Mexico. Of these, 93.8% (20,080 specimens) were wild harvested, while 3.8% (822 specimens) were captive bred and 2.3% (487 specimens) were born in captivity from wild parents (LEMIS 2006-2015) between 2013 and 2017; for *P. platyrhinos*, this percentage was 96% (LEMIS 2021).

The most commonly exported species by far is *P. platyrhinos*, with 20,199 individuals exported, which amounts to 94.4% of the trade of *Phrynosoma* involving the USA. It is followed by *P. modestum*, with 496 individuals, which represents 2.3% of the trade. Specimens were exported to 32 different countries, of which Germany was the main destination with 3,371 individuals, followed by the Netherlands (2,865 specimens), the United Kingdom (2,816 specimens), Japan (2,645 specimens) and Canada (1,916 specimens). The European Union is the main market for live *Phrynosoma*, followed by Asia (Japan, Hong Kong SAR, Thailand, Korea and Taiwan, Province of China. From 2013 to 2017, 99% of transactions of *P. platyrhinos* were reported as having commercial purposes (LEMIS 2021).

Country	Quantity imported			
Germany	3371			
Netherlands	2865			
United Kingdom	2816			
Japan	2645			
Canada	1916			
Switzerland	1171			
Austria	1133			
Hong Kong SAR	819			
Spain	715			
Czech Republic	689			
Thailand	608			
Korea	557			
Italy	554			
Taiwan, Province of China	517			

Countries of import of Phrynosoma exported by the USA, 2006-2015

Source: LEMIS 2006-2015

In 2013-2017, *P. platyrhinos* was exported to the Netherlands, Japan, Hong Kong SAR, Germany, Great Britain and Canada. The Netherlands, Japan and Hong Kong SAR were the three main importers of *P. platyrhinos* from the United States. Altogether, they imported almost 50% of the individuals traded (LEMIS 2021). Mexico exported 45 live *Phrynosoma* between 2000 and 2017: 24 *P. asio*, 12 *P. orbiculare* and 8 *P. coronatum*, all for scientific and non-commercial purposes (SEMARNAT 2019). In 2019-2021, exports from Mexico of wild-collected *Phrynosoma* for commercial purposes were the following: 42 *P. asio* in 2019; 170 *P. asio* in 2020 and 366 *P. asio* and 24 *P. taurus* in 2021, amounting to 602 individuals in total (SEMARNAT 2022). The countries of destination of commercial exports of *Phrynosoma* from Mexico were Spain (250 individuals); Japan (174 individuals); Germany (162 individuals) and the United States (6 individuals) (SEMARNAT 2022).

Commercial exports of Phrynosoma from Mexico, 2011-2021



Source: SEMARNAT 2019, 2022

Information recorded in the CITES Trade Database on the 4 species included in the CITES Appendices (*P. coronatum, P. blainvillii, P cerroense* and *P wigginsii=P. cerroense*) shows the following: 12 individuals were exported by Mexico (*P. coronatum* 8; *P. blainvillii* 4), 5 for commercial purposes (CITES, 2021), and 84 individuals were exported by the USA (*P. coronatum* 51; *P. cerroense* 30; *P. blainvillii* 3); of these, 82 were exported for commercial purposes (CITES 2021). Interestingly, *P. cerroense* was exported from the USA in 2011 but it is endemic to Mexico and there are no records of exports of this species from Mexico or from the USA in the LEMIS database. CITES trade data do not match the data of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT), which reported that all the exports of *P. coronatum* and *P. blainvillii* in the LEMIS database of the USA does not match the records of the CITES Trade Database either.

Phrynosoma species are sold in several European countries (Altherr & Lameter 2020; Altherr et al 2019), Taiwan (Shiau et al 2006), the Philippines (Sy 2015) and Japan and Malaysia (Annex 1). In the USA pet trade, *P. platyrhinos* is sold for USD 39,99; USD 149,99; *P. asio* is sold for USD 700 a pair.¹

6.3 Parts and products in trade

Practically all the international trade recorded concerns live animals. In the United States, 99% of the specimens of *P. platyrhinos* traded in 2013-2017 were live animals (LEMIS 2021).

6.4 Illegal trade

In Mexico, *Phrynosoma* species are highly valued for selling illegally on the black market and in pet shops (Raya, 2013). In Chihuahua they are harvested and offered for sale internationally in pet shops and reptile shows (González Porter, pers. comm. with Adrián Reuter, in Fitzgerald et al 2004). There is information about commercial harvest of reptiles from the island and it is likely that *P. cerroense* is one of the species subjected to this activity (Ramírez et al 2004).

Between 2000-2020, Mexico seized 302 *Phrynosoma*: *P. orbiculare* (46), *P. asio* (30), *P. cornutum* (12), *P. mcalli* (6) and *P. spp* (203) (PROFEPA 2019, 2021). *Phrynosoma* are the species of lizards most frequently seized in Mexico (Altherr et al 2020). Endemic species of *Phrynosoma* that were never exported to Europe for commercial purposes have been offered for sale in several countries of Europe; this includes 68 specimens of *P. orbiculare* at prices of EUR 100-200 and *P. taurus* at a price of EUR 500 (Altherr et al 2019). In addition, *Phrynosoma* have not been commercially exported from Mexico to any countries, so it can be inferred that the endemic species were illegally smuggled out of Mexico.

https://www.gotreptiles.com/horned-toad-lizard-small.html http://www.faunaclassifieds.com/forums/showthread.php?t=682468.

¹ https://www.backwaterreptiles.com/other-lizards/desert-horned-lizard-for-sale.html

6.5 Actual or potential trade impacts

The demand for endemic species drives illegal trade, which can ultimately lead to their overexploitation (Courchamp et al 2006). Some species such as rare and endemic species of reptiles are particularly vulnerable to overexploitation (Auliya et al 2016; Herrel et al 2014). A study found that the more widely traded or popular a species is in the United States, the more likely it is to be smuggled into other countries (Stringham et al 2021). The growing popularity of *Phrynosoma* species as pets could be promoting illegal trade.

7. Legal instruments

7.1 National

In Mexico, *P. cerroense, P. mcallii, P. orbiculare* and *P. taurus* are classified as Threatened, while *P. asio* and *P. braconnieri* are classified as Subject to Special Protection (DOF 2019). In the USA, *P. blainvillii* is listed as Vulnerable in California; *P. cornutum* is listed as Fully Protected in New Mexico, as a Species of Special Concern in Oklahoma and Colorado, and as Threatened in Texas; *P. hernandezi* is classified as Fully Protected in New Mexico, as a Species of Special Concern in Oklahoma and Colorado, and as Threatened in Texas; *P. hernandezi* is classified as Fully Protected in New Mexico, Threatened in Texas and potentially at risk in Montana; *P. mcallii* is considered Threatened in California and Arizona (New Mexico Game and Fish 2021, 2018, Montgomery 2003; Oklahoma Wildlife Department 2021). *P. platyrhinos* is not protected under the US Endangered Species Act. The states of the USA in which this species occurs have individual regulations that grant some protection to the species, but the level of protection varies between states and no federal regulations currently protect the species on a national level. In Canada, *P. douglasii* is Extirpated and *P. hernandezi* is classified as Special Concern (COSEWIC 2018, 2019).

7.2 International

In 1992, four species were included in CITES Appendix II: *P. coronatum, P. blainvillii, P cerroense* and *P wigginsii* (CITES Checklist 2021). However, *P. wigginsi* is now considered a synonym of *P. cerroense* (Leache & Linkem 2015).

8. Species management

8.1 Management measures

In the United States, researchers and ranch managers in central Texas are currently exploring options to reintroduce *P. cornutum* in plots where it used to occur (Granber et al 2015). In Canada, *P. douglasii* is extirpated and it is considered that, if it were reintroduced, its current potential threats would include widespread habitat loss, road mortality and predation by native and exotic animals (COSEWIC 2019).

8.2 Population monitoring

In Mexico, the Autonomous University of Guerrero and the National Autonomous University of Mexico are conducting studies and working on the conservation of some species of horned lizards, including *P. orbiculare, P. asio, P. taurus* and *P. braconnieri.* In Michoacán, the *Centro Michoacano para la Conservación del Camaleón* conducts activities aimed at protecting horned lizards and raising awareness about them (Raya 2013).

8.3 Control measures

8.3.1 International

In the USA, the states regulate the harvest and conservation of the species, and individual states have set limits to the collection and possession in the state of *P. platyrhinos* or more broadly of reptiles and species included in the state list.

8.3.2 Domestic

In Mexico, the harvest and conservation of all species of *Phrynosoma* are regulated by the General Wildlife Act (*Ley General de Vida Silvestre*) and the General Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection Act (*Ley General del Equilibrio Ecológico y la Protección al Ambiente*).

8.4 Captive breeding and artificial propagation

In 2008, Los Angeles Zoo launched a captive breeding project for *P. asio* that required a very high level of care of the species in captivity because of its specific food and humidity requirements (Recchio et al 2014). Most of these lizards die within weeks due to poor husbandry, and no self-sustaining captivebred populations have ever been obtained (Oklahoma Wildlife Department 2021). In Mexico, four Wildlife Management and Conservation Units or UMAs and two Properties or Facilities that Manage Wildlife in Confined Form, Outside its Natural Habitat (PIMVS) conduct intensive management of specimens of *Phrynosoma* but there are no records of authorizations for the collection of *Phrynosoma* in intensive management UMAs or PIMVS.

8.5 Habitat conservation

Phrynosoma species are present in several protected areas in Mexico, the United States and Canada. (Aguilar & Devender, 2018; Fitzgerald et al 2014; Rojas et al 2016; Leache et al 2009, COSEWIC 2019)

8.6 Safeguards

9. Information on similar species

All *Phrynosoma* species are similar in appearance to non-experts. Correct species identification requires assessing a series of characteristics such as the number of rows of dorsal scales, the notch between the horns, the number of horns, the length of the tail, the dorsal stripes, etc. (Sherbrooke, 2003). Identification is more difficult in juvenile specimens, which only develop some characteristics such as the large horns once they reach maturity (Pianka & Parker 1975).

10. Consultations

The USA and Canada were consulted.

11. Additional remarks

12. <u>References</u>

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Annex 1

Advertisements of Phrynosoma sp. offered for sale in the USA, Europe and Asia



MEXICAN PLATEAU HORNED LIZARD ADULTS PHRYNOSOMA ORBICULARE **\$219.99**



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Phrynosoma braconieri

販売価格: 178,000円(税別)

net.co.jp/?author=8) こんばんは、製地です! 冬は苦手だけど年末の雰囲気は割と好きです(笑)

お待たせしました!ここ最近のトカゲの新着生体を ドドーン!

と紹介したいと思います!!\(^o^)/

【新着生体】

・チワワヤマツノトカゲ(Phrynosoma orbiculare orinetale) トゲトゲしたお機関のような姿が愛らしい(≥マ≤) b メキシコの山岳地帯に棲む中型ツノトカゲ。妙に小綺麗で背中に貫いマーキングもありますが、 なんと、この昼体CBなんです!!! 胎生なのでこの姿のまま生まれるそうです!全く想像がつきません(笑) 野生下ではアリなどを食べているそうですが、コオロギでも飼育は可能です。 一類でパパッとエザを食べる姿は早すぎて飼育者しか見ることが出来ないです> <</p>







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11-14-2020, 03:22

Registered User Join Date: Feb 2018 Location: Santa Ana, CA Age: 25 Posts: 4 Name : Christopher Hermosillo

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Cjhermosillo Giant Horned Lizards

Phymosoma Asio are the best starter homed lizard of them all. They eat a variety of foods just like any other species of small lizard. They requirements in their diet too of all phrynosoma, and fare decently for long periods without them. I give mine ants every month or so if the maintained asio for over three years with this style of diet and got eggs last year. Give them lots of water and humidity too, daily misting is species. I am letting go 1.2 for \$1500, only because they are in pristine shape. Usually any phrynosoma come in as imports and are emay when you see them available. I have hand fed and outdoor raised mine in an ideal enclosure in a perfect southern california climate for the these asio are WELL established. Im happy to provide any answers to questions you may have about their care. Feel free to message me o cihermosillo@yahoo.com

Giant Horned Lizards - FaunaClassifieds





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For Sale Glant homed lizard (Phrynosoma asio) - FaunaClassifieds



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\$149.99





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- 3.0 Phrynosoma asio NZ11 / 2020
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Jakub Bříza 봋



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I'm looking for male phrynosoma goodei for my adult female.

