

AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Ten Year Review Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of Phrynosoma coronatum in Appendix II.

B. PROPONENT

The United States of America.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class: Reptilia
12. Order: Sauria
13. Family: Iguanidae
14. Species: Phrynosoma coronatum (Blainville, 1835)

Phrynosoma coronatum taxa proposed for inclusion in Appendix II:

- P. c. blainvillei (Gray, 1839) San Diego horned lizard
P. c. coronatum (Blainville, 1835) Cape horned lizard
P. c. frontale (Van Denburgh, 1894) California horned lizard
P. c. jamesi (Schmidt, 1922) Central Peninsular horned lizard
P. c. schmidtii (Barbour, 1921) Northern Peninsular horned lizard

15. Common Names: English: coast horned lizard
French:
Spanish:

16. Code Numbers: 303010040006 (ID Manual)

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: Phrynosoma coronatum occurs west of the Sierra Nevada crest (mountain range) from Shasta County, California, south throughout all of Southern California (west of the Mojave Desert) and the Baja California Peninsula at elevations from near sea level to over 1830 m. (Stebbins, 1972).
22. Population: There is a limited recent data on the population status of coastal horned lizards in California and Mexico. The State of California is currently conducting a status survey of this species to the southern portion of the State, and the results of these studies should become available in the near future. However, the coastal horned lizard has disappeared from many metropolitan and agricultural areas of the State

due to development, habitat destruction, and overcollection (Jennings, 1988).

23. Habitat: Horned lizards inhabit sandy drylands and scrub areas in southern California. It is most common in lowlands along sandy washes where there are scattered low bushes.

3. Trade Data

31. National Utilization: The coastal horned lizard has been harvested heavily for the pet industry for many years. According to Dr. B. Brattstrom, University of California at Fullerton (pers. comm.), this species was completely decimated in the early part of the century by the pet trade. During a 40-year period (1890-1920), over 100,000 specimens were collected from the wild.
32. Legal International Trade: Although there are reports that this species is in trade, presently very few specimens enter trade. Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei has been listed in Appendix II since 1975, but this taxa has not been recorded in trade since its original listing.
33. Illegal Trade: A few specimens are collected annually as pets, and there are reports that this species is a popular pet item in Europe.
34. Potential Trade Threats: Due to habitat destruction and alteration, unlimited trade could be detrimental to the survival of this species in the wild.

4. Protection Status

41. National: California State Law prohibits the collection of this species from the wild. It is also a candidate for "species of special concern" status.
42. International: The subspecies P. c. blainvillei has been listed in Appendix II of CITES since 1975.

5. Information on Similar Species

There is wide disagreement among authorities regarding the coronatum blainvillei complex. Jennings (1978) presents evidence that one species with several subspecies is involved.

6. Comments from Countries of Origin

California State Law presently prohibits its take from the wild. According to Mexico, the population of blainvillei is very small, although there is no documentation of trade. Mexico prefers not to remove this taxon from Appendix II, but proposes that all of the species in the genus Phrynosoma be listed in Appendix II since they are the object of commerce within Mexico.

7. Additional Remarks

There are five recognized subspecies of coastal horned lizards occurring in California and Mexico, with only the San Diego horned lizard (P. c. blainvillei) presently listed in Appendix II of CITES.

The United States proposes listing the species in Appendix II to control and monitor trade. This action would remove the burden of identifying the different subspecies by customs agents in importing countries, and place responsibility for proper identification of specimens and correct documentation on export permits for all subspecies on the exporting country.

8. References

Jennings, M.R. Phrynosoma coronatum. Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptile. 428:1-4.

Stebbins, R.C., 1972. Amphibians and reptiles of California. Calif. Nat. Hist. Guide (31) Univ. California Press, Berkeley. 152p.

