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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Monito del Monte

The **Monito del Monte**, *Dromiciops gliroides*, is listed as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Although its name means 'monkey of the mountains', this small, mouse-like mammal is in fact a nocturnal marsupial, found only in southern and central Chile and adjacent parts of Argentina. This species has often been called a 'living fossil' due to it being the only surviving member of an otherwise extinct order, the Microbiotheria.

The recent decline in numbers of Monito del Monte is believed to be due to the loss of its already limited habitat. The forests it inhabits are under severe pressure from human activities and development, with many trees being cut for timber and fuelwood, cleared for pine and eucalyptus plantations, or destroyed by urbanisation, road building and hydroelectric projects.

The Monito del Monte occurs in several protected areas in Argentina and Chile. In addition, research is underway on the island of Chiloé into the species' ecology and natural history, so helping to inform future conservation actions. Research is also needed to determine the impacts of the various threats to this small, unique marsupial.

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The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership: IUCN (including the Species Survival Commission), BirdLife International, Conservation International, NatureServe and Zoological Society of London.