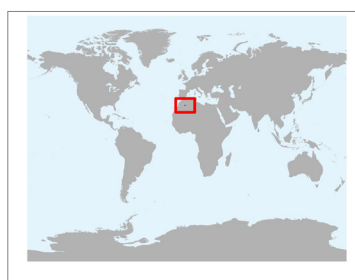




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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
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Geographical range

www.iucnredlist.org
www.arkive.org

Species of the Day: Sahara Aphantius

The **Sahara Aphantius**, *Aphantius saourensis*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This small freshwater fish is endemic to the Oued Saoura basin in Algeria. It is now only known from one remnant population, near Mazzer, in the Sahara Desert, having disappeared from numerous other localities within this same spring system.

The North American fish, *Gambusia holbrooki*, was introduced as a method of mosquito control, but now outnumbers *Aphantius* by more than 100 to one and poses a serious threat. In addition, excessive groundwater withdrawal for agricultural purposes, the drying of wetlands, and water pollution are also major threats to the species.

Numerous attempts have been made to record Sahara Aphantius from other localities but none have been found. It is unlikely to survive in the wild, however it does well in aquariums, and a small captive breeding programme is underway. This species would benefit from habitat restoration, and the development of a Protected Area within its range before re-introduction programmes can get underway.

World Water Week 2010 is taking place in Stockholm, September 5th - 11th.



Species of the Day
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