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Geographical range

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Species of the Day: La Gomera Giant Lizard

The **La Gomera Giant Lizard**, *Gallotia bravoana*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is native to La Gomera Island (of the Canary Islands) and can grow up to 1.2 metres in length.

This species was once widespread, living in a variety of places on La Gomera, but populations have declined through overgrazing, hunting, and predation by feral cats and rats. It was thought to be extinct, but in 1999 a small population was discovered to be living on a western part of the island. Although populations have been increasing since 2001 due to conservation efforts, they are severely fragmented in their distribution and only 90 individuals now remain in the wild.

There is now international legislation protecting La Gomera Giant Lizards, and a captive breeding programme has been established on the island. There is also a need to control cat populations on La Gomera and to implement education programmes for local people.



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