

Mohave fringe-toed lizard  
(*Uma scoparia*)

**STATUS:** Species of concern.

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** A medium-sized, flattened pear shaped lizard with small fringe-like scales projecting from the toes. Snout-vent lengths of adults range from approximately 69 to 114 mm (2.7 to 4.4 in). Base coloration is light cream, yellow, or tan and closely matches the sand on which the animal lives. There are small brown to orange spots on the back surrounded by a network of black reticulations. There are black bands on the underside of the tail and there is a black spot on each side of the belly. During breeding, a yellow-green ventral wash develops that becomes pink on the side of the body. Crescent-shaped markings on the throat, lack of orange bars on the belly, and absence of stripes on the back distinguish the Mohave fringe-toed lizard from the similar Yuman Desert fringe-toed lizard (*Uma rufopunctata*) found in Yuma County and northwestern Sonora.

**HABITAT:** Mohave fringe-toed lizards are restricted to areas with fine, aeolian sand including both large and small dunes, margins of dry lakebeds and washes, sandy flats, and isolated dune pockets against hillsides (Stebbins, 1944, 2003; Smith, 1946; Norris, 1958). These areas are generally within creosote scrub desert between elevations of 90-910 m (300-3,000 ft).

**RANGE: Historical:** Similar to current range.

**Current:** The Mohave fringe-toed lizard is endemic to southern California and a small area of western Arizona, where it is restricted to aeolian sand habitats in the deserts of Los Angeles, Riverside, Inyo, and San Bernardino Counties in California and La Paz County in Arizona.

**REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** Potential direct disturbances include habitat loss or damage from urban development, off-highway vehicles (OHV), and agriculture. Potential indirect disturbances are associated with the disruption of the dune ecosystem source sand, wind transport, and sand transport corridors.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** In Arizona: Bureau of Land Management and Department of the Army (Yuma Proving Grounds).

**NOTES:** A population in Inyo and San Bernardino counties, California has been petitioned for listing.

*Updated April 2006*

***Did you want to include the citations?***