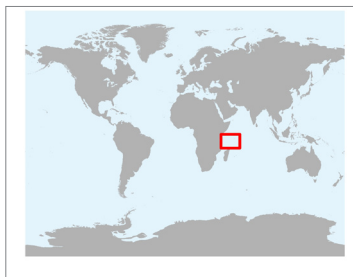




© Julie Gane

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	< CRITICALLY ENDANGERED >	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

Species of the Day: Frigate Island Giant Tenebrionid Beetle

The **Frigate Island Giant Tenebrionid Beetle**, *Polposipus herculeanus*, is classified as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is one of the largest beetles in the western Indian Ocean and is now only known from Frégate Island, Seychelles, where it is found mainly on the Sandragon Tree, *Pterocarpus indicus*.

The Frigate Island Giant Tenebrionid Beetle survived on Frégate, despite most of the island's native vegetation being replaced by introduced trees. All the adults are flightless, making it almost impossible for them to recolonize their former range. Rats invaded Frégate in 1996, and were swarming over the island by 2000, posing a possible threat to the survival of the beetle.

A captive breeding programme was established at the Zoological Society of London to prevent the species from becoming extinct. A rat eradication programme was also put in place, and Frégate was declared rat-free in 2001. Since then, a new threat has appeared as a result of the deaths of most of the Sandragon Trees due to a fungal infection. However, habitat restoration work has increased the island's forest diversity, enabling the beetle to move onto other native plant species.

www.iucnredlist.org
www.arkive.org
 Help Save Species



Species of the Day is sponsored by



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.