



Status of the Tigers of the Beetle world...

first update

Tiger beetles are charismatic predatory invertebrates found in all regions of the world except for the polar areas. Within India, there are approximately 243 species, found in habitats as diverse as tropical forests to dry sandy plains. Many species are especially limited to the Western Ghats mountains and the northeastern region of India. Little is known about the conservation status of tiger beetles globally, despite their recognition as valuable indicator species for evaluating the status of their habitats and the associated invertebrate communities. Following an expert evaluation workshop held in Coimbatore, hosted by Zooreach, all the nationally endemic tiger beetles (those limited to India only) have been examined to better understand their national and global conservation status. Of the 124 endemic species, the first 74 Indian tiger beetles, have now been published on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Of the species published, 52 are not considered to be threatened - which is good news for Indian biodiversity conservation; too little is known about eight species to determine if they are threatened; but worryingly, 14 are categorized as being seriously threatened in India. Although more details on the wider conservation picture for the endemic tiger beetles of India is expected to be presented in Zoo's Print in 2025, there is certainly a need to initiate direct conservation actions for the species already accepted as being highly threatened by IUCN. Conservation measures will be different for each individual species, and it may be that a dedicated action plan is needed for this interesting and useful group of insects.

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