



## Hirudo medicinalis

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<b>Annex</b>	V
<b>Priority</b>	No
<b>Species group</b>	Other invertebrates
<b>Regions</b>	Alpine, Atlantic, Black Sea, Boreal, Continental, Mediterranean, Pannonian, Steppic

The medicinal leech has been recorded throughout Europe although rarer in the south. It is found in naturally occurring freshwater lakes, ponds, streams, and marshes. Originally considered one species, recent studies show that *H medicinalis* L. (as noted in the Directive) is four species *H medicinalis* (north & northwest Europe), *H verbana* (Mediterranean and steppic), *H orientalis* (eastern Europe and Asia) and *H troctina* (Spain and north west Africa)

The species is not well known which results in Conservation Status being assessed as Unknown for all regions except the Boreal, Pannonic and Steppic where it is Unfavourable inadequate. Utevsky et al (2010) proposed Near Threatened for *H medicinalis*, *H verbana* and *H orientalis* and Data deficient for *H troctina*

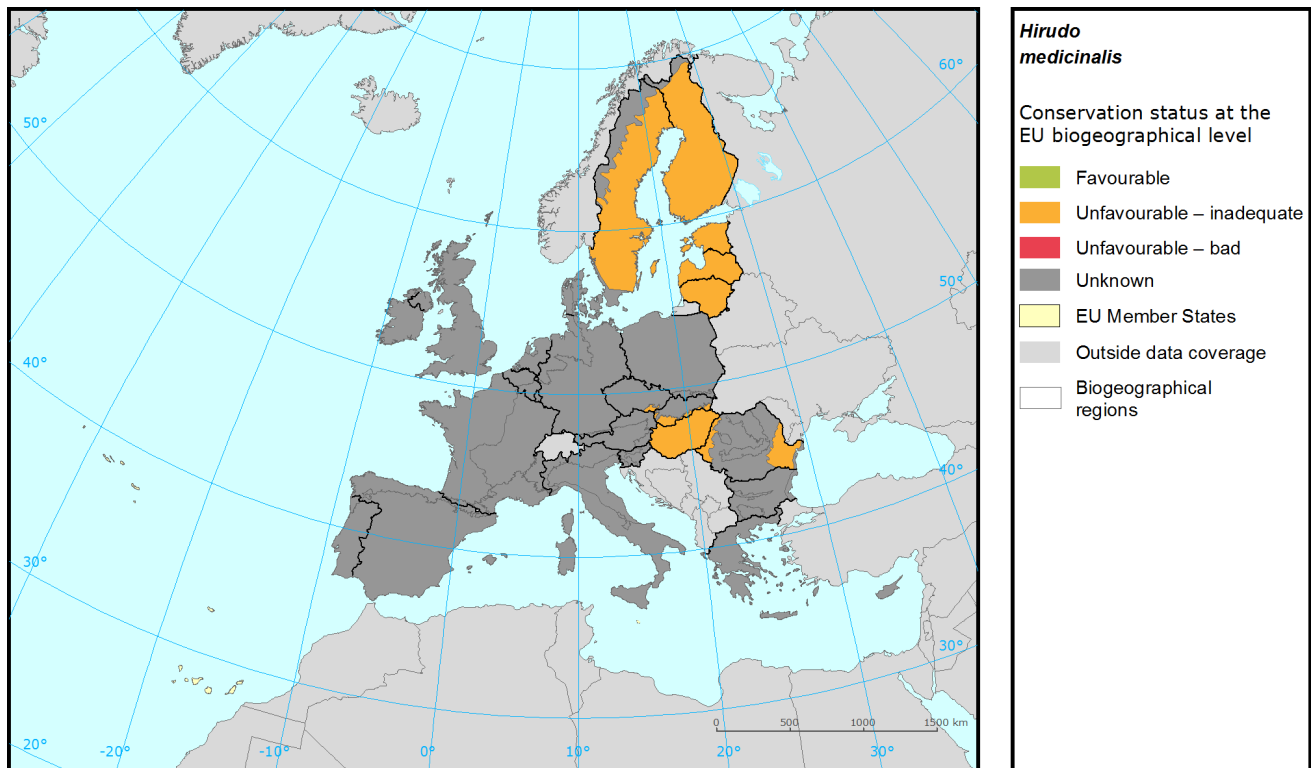
The most frequently reported threat and pressures are changes to grazing regimes and hydrology together with pollution and fishing, usually noted as highly important. Other frequently reported threats and pressures include climate change and succession.

Utevsky, S., Zigmajster, M., Atemasov, A., Zinenko, O., Utevska, O., Utevsky, A., & Trontelj, P. (2010). Distribution and status of medicinal leeches (genus *Hirudo*) in the Western Palaearctic: anthropogenic, ecological, or historical effects?. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*, 20(2), 198-210.

# Species: *Hirudo medicinalis*

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## Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level



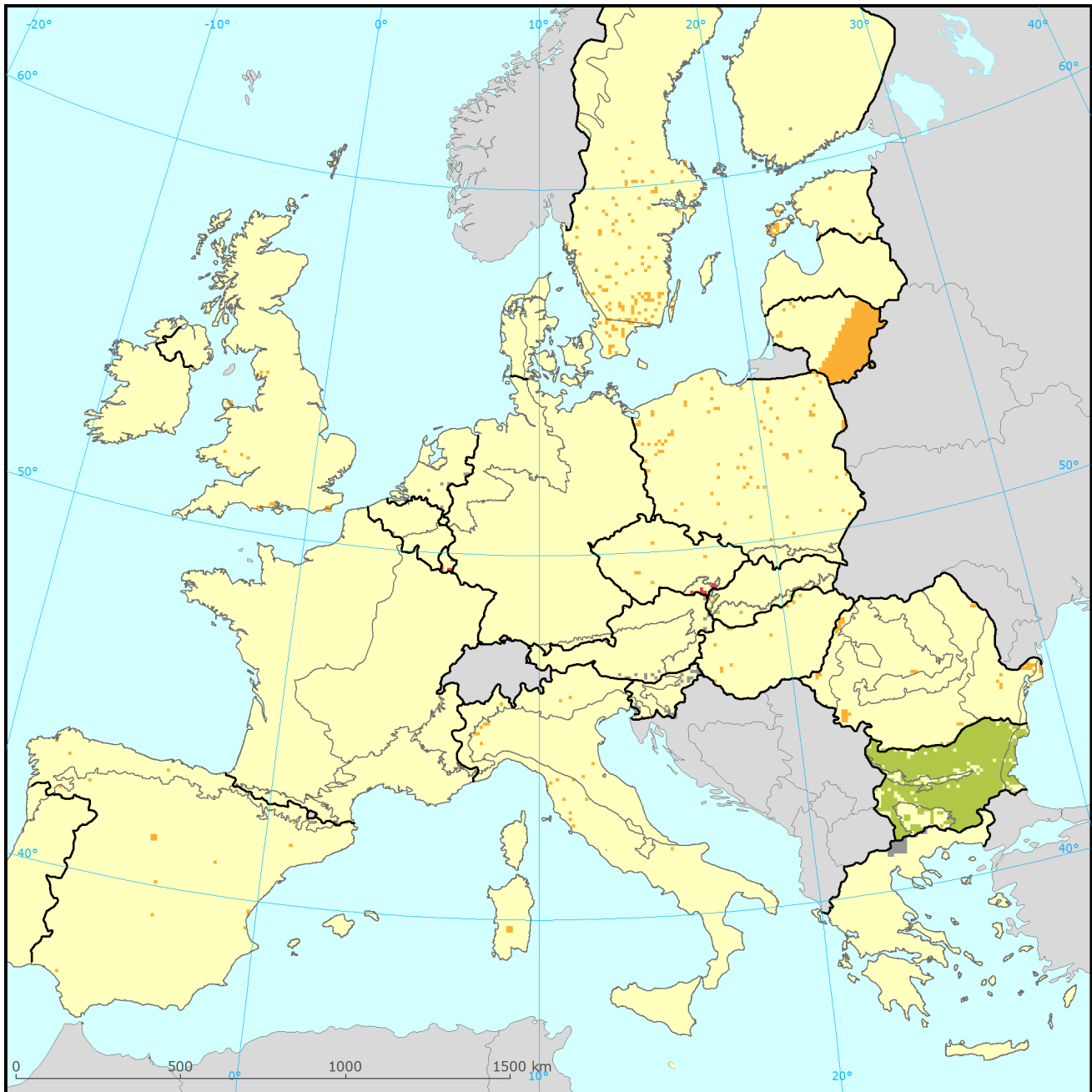
Region	Conservation status (CS) of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
	Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	x	5	XX	
ATL	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX	x	2	XX	
BLS	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	-	4	XX	
BOR	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	25	U1	
CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		58	XX	
MED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	x	3	XX	
PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	2	XX	Not genuine
STE	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	0.77	XX	Not genuine

See the endnote for more information<sup>i</sup>

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## Assessment of conservation status at the Member State level



### *Hirudo medicinalis*

Distribution and conservation status at the Member State level

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Favourable                | EU Member States       |
| Unfavourable – inadequate | Outside data coverage  |
| Unfavourable – bad        | Biogeographical region |
| Unknown                   |                        |

The map shows both Conservation Status and distribution using a 10 km x 10 km grid. Conservation status is assessed at biogeographical level. Therefore the representation in each grid cell is only illustrative.

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MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
AT	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX		12.5	XX		
BG	ALP	FV	FV	FV	FV		80.0			
DE	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX			XX		
IT	ALP	U1	XX	FV	XX	U1	x	3.8	XX	Changed method
SI	ALP	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		3.8	U1	
BE	ATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		2.6	XX	
DE	ATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX			U2	Changed method
DK	ATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
ES	ATL	U1	U1	XX	XX	U1	-	7.9	XX	Changed method
FR	ATL	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX			XX	
NL	ATL	FV	XX	XX	XX	XX		23.7	XX	
UK	ATL	FV	FV	U1	FV	U1	=	65.8	FV	Better data
BG	BLS	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		91.7		
RO	BLS	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	8.3		
EE	BOR	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	5.4	U1	
FI	BOR	FV	XX	FV	XX	XX		1.2	XX	
LT	BOR	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	64.1	U2	Better data
LV	BOR	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	6.6	FV	Better data
SE	BOR	FV	FV	U1	FV	U1	=	22.7	U1-	Better data
AT	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		0.4	XX	
BG	CON	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		82.7		
CZ	CON	FV	U1	FV	U1	U1	x	0.6		Genuine
DE	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX			XX	
DK	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX				
IT	CON	FV	XX	U1	XX	U1	x	0.8	U2	Changed method
LU	CON	U1	U2	XX	XX	U2	x	0.5	U2	
PL	CON	FV	U1	U1	U1	U1	x	9.1	U1	
RO	CON	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	1.6		
SE	CON	FV	U1	U1	FV	U1	=	2.1	U1-	Better data
SI	CON	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		2.1	U1	
ES	MED	U1	U1	XX	XX	U1	-	30.2	XX	Changed method
FR	MED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX			XX	
GR	MED	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX		39.6	XX	
IT	MED	FV	XX	U1	XX	U1	x	30.2	U2	Changed method

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MS	Region	Conservation status of parameters				Current CS	Trend in CS	% in region	Previous CS	Reason for change
		Range	Population	Habitat	Future prospects					
CZ	PAN	U2	U1	U2	U1	U2	x	17.1	U2	Genuine
HU	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	=	26.8	XX	Better data
RO	PAN	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	26.8		
SK	PAN	FV	FV	FV	FV	FV		29.3	U1-	Better data
RO	STE	U1	U1	U1	U1	U1	-	100.0		

Knowing that not all changes in conservation status between the reporting periods were genuine, Member States were asked to give the reasons for changes in conservation status. Bulgaria and Romania only joined the EU in 2007 and Greece did not report for 2007-12 so no reason is given for change for these countries. Greek data shown above is from 2001-06.

## Main pressures and threats reported by Member States

Member States were asked to report the 20 most important threats and pressures using an agreed hierarchical list which can be found on the [Article 17 Reference Portal](#). Pressures are activities which are currently having an impact on the species and threats are activities expected to have an impact in the near future. Pressures and threats were ranked in three classes 'high, medium and low importance'; the tables below only show threats and pressures classed as 'high', for some species there were less than ten threats or pressures reported as highly important.

### Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' pressures

Code	Activity	Frequency
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	22
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	16
H01	Pollution to surface waters	11
M01	Abiotic changes (climate change)	11
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	9
A04	Grazing by livestock	9
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	4
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	4
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	2
D01	Roads, railroads and paths	2

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## Ten most frequently reported 'highly important' threats

Code	Activity	Frequency
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	14
J02	Changes in water bodies conditions	14
M01	Abiotic changes (climate change)	12
H01	Pollution to surface waters	10
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	8
A04	Grazing by livestock	8
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	6
A08	Fertilisation in agriculture	4
A10	Restructuring agricultural parcels	4
C01	Mining and quarrying	4

This information is derived from the Member State national reports submitted to the European Commission under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2013 and covering the period 2007-2012. More detailed information, including the MS reports, is available at:

<http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/species/summary/?group=Other+invertebrates&period=3&subject=Hirudo+medicinalis>

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**i Assessment of conservation status at the European biogeographical level:** Current Conservation Status (Current CS) shows the status for the reporting period 2007-2012, Previous Conservation Status (Previous CS) for the reporting period 2000-2006. Reason for change in conservation status between the reporting periods indicates whether the changes in the status were genuine or not genuine. Previous Conservation Status was not assessed for Steppic, Black Sea and Marine Black Sea regions. For these regions the Previous status is therefore considered as 'unknown'. The percentage of the species population occurring within the biogeographical/marine region (% in region) is calculated based on the area of GIS distribution.