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## CDF Checklist of Galapagos Annelids - Terrestrial earthworms

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This checklist is automatically generated using Version 3.0 of the online database CDF Galapagos Species Checklist.

The **Annelida** (from the Latin *anellus* meaning “little ring”) are segmented worms.

Worldwide an estimated 17,000 species are known, including ragworms, earthworms, and leeches. Many are found in marine environments, some also in moist terrestrial habitats.

The terrestrial earthworms play an important role in soil formation and are reputed to improve soil structure and aeration. In Galapagos, few terrestrial species are known, all believed to have been intentionally introduced by farmers to improve local soils. Unfortunately these introductions were probably detrimental.

Anecdotes by farmers suggest that today Galapagos soils have become very dense and loamy, possibly as a result of these introductions. One species of earthworm, *Aeolosoma maritimum dubiosum*, has been described from damp intertidal sand as a Galapagos endemic.

For marine species distribution data cited in the CDF Galapagos Checklists refer to the five main bioregions of the archipelago (Far Northern, Northern, Western, South Eastern and the Elithabeth Bay Bioregion). For the terrestrial species the more than 120 islands, islets and small rocks have been aggregated into Islands Groups, thus, for example, the island group “Santa Cruz” includes smaller islands like Santa Fé, Plaza Norte, Plaza Sur, Baltra, Daphne Mayor, Daphne Minor, and others.

Please be aware that the distribution data presented here is automatically generated from specimen records and does not always accurately reflect the known distribution for all species.

IUCN red-list assessments presented here may deviate from the global IUCN list for the following reasons:

- for well known species groups like vascular plants or vertebrates updates proposed to the IUCN are shown instead of the outdated, but currently accepted status;
- for poorly known species groups (e.g., lichenized fungi) a general assessment is currently not possible and the list presented here is a regional red-list list for Galapagos archipelago.

**Names of taxa included in this checklist:** 9 (9 Accepted).

**Origin of the taxa included:** 5 Cultivated.

1. *Pontoscolex corethrurus* Müller, 1856  
**Taxon status:** Accepted name; taxon occurs in Galapagos.  
**Origin:** Introduced, Cultivated.  
**Galapagos Distribution:** Unknown.  
**References:** Blakemore, R.J. et al. (2006).
2. *Dichogaster bolau* (Michaelsen, 1891)  
**Taxon status:** Accepted name; taxon occurs in Galapagos.  
**Origin:** Introduced, Cultivated.  
**Galapagos Distribution:** Unknown.  
**References:** Blakemore, R.J. et al. (2006).
3. *Pontodrilus litoralis* (Grube, 1855)  
**Taxon status:** Accepted name; taxon occurs in Galapagos.  
**Origin:** Introduced, Cultivated.  
**Galapagos Distribution:** Unknown.  
**References:** Blakemore, R.J. et al. (2006).
4. *Amyntas corticis* (Kinberg, 1867)  
**Taxon status:** Accepted name; taxon occurs in Galapagos.  
**Origin:** Introduced, Cultivated.  
**Galapagos Distribution:** Unknown.  
**References:** Blakemore, R.J. et al. (2006).
5. *Amyntas morrisoni* (Beddard, 1892)  
**Taxon status:** Accepted name; taxon occurs in Galapagos.  
**Origin:** Introduced, Cultivated.  
**Galapagos Distribution:** Unknown.  
**References:** Blakemore, R.J. et al. (2006).
6. *Eurythoe complanata* (Pallas, 1766)  
**Taxon status:** Accepted name; taxon occurs in Galapagos.  
**IUCN Red List:** Not Evaluated.  
**Galapagos Distribution:** Floreana, Santa Cruz.
7. *Salmacina tribranchiata* (Moore, 1923)  
**Taxon status:** Accepted name; taxon occurs in Galapagos.  
**IUCN Red List:** Not Evaluated.  
**Galapagos Distribution:** Unknown.
8. *Spirobranchus giganteus* (Pallas, 1766)  
**Taxon status:** Accepted name; taxon occurs in Galapagos.  
**IUCN Red List:** Not Evaluated.  
**Galapagos Distribution:** Unknown.  
**References:** Appeltans, W. et al. (2010), Banks, S. et al. (2009), Bustamante, R.H. et al. (2002).
9. *Megalomma mushaensis* Gill, 1862  
**Taxon status:** Accepted name; taxon occurs in Galapagos.  
**IUCN Red List:** Not Evaluated.  
**Galapagos Distribution:** Unknown.

### **References:**

1. Appeltans, W., Bouchet, P., Boxshall, G.A., Fauchald, K., Gordon, D.P., Hoeksema, B.W., Poore, G.C.B., van Soest, R.W.M., Stöhr, S., Walter, T.C., Costello, M.J. (eds.) (2010) *World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS)*. Available online at <http://www.marinespecies.org>.
2. Banks, S., Vera, M. Chiriboga, A. (2009) *Establishing Reference Points to Assess Long-Term Change in Zooxanthellate Coral Communities of the Northern Galapagos Coral Reefs*. Journal of Science and

Conservation in the Galapagos Islands, p. 43-64.

3. Blakemore, R.J. (2006) *Galapagos islands earthworms*. unpublished manuscript.

4. Bustamante, R.H., Vinueza, L.R., Smith, F., Banks, S., Calvopiña, M., Francisco, V., Chiriboga, A., Harris, J. (2002) *Comunidades submareales rocosas I: Organismos sésiles y mesoinvertebrados móviles*. In: Danulat, E. Edgar, G.J. (eds.) (2002): *Reserva Marina de Galápagos. Línea Base de la Biodiversidad*. Fundación Charles Darwin/Servicio Parque Nacional Galápagos, Santa Cruz, Galápagos, Ecuador, p. 38-67.