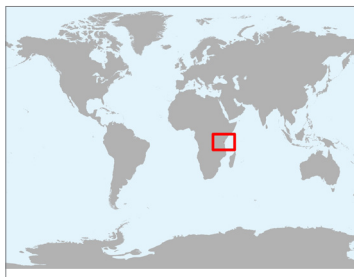




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Geographical range

Species of the Day: Usambara Drumming Grasshopper

The **Usambara Drumming Grasshopper**, *Ixalidium transiens*, has not yet been officially evaluated for inclusion on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, however, it has a provisional assessment of 'Vulnerable'. It is endemic to the East Usambara Mountains in Tanzania and is a nocturnal species that dwells in the litter layer of evergreen submontane forests. It drums on the substrate with its hind legs to attract females.

The Usambara Drumming Grasshopper is a representative of a species-rich fauna found in the East Usambara Mountains. This mountain area is part of one of the global biodiversity hotspots, the Eastern Arc forests, which stretch from south-east Kenya to south-west Tanzania. The area, which is threatened by deforestation and habitat fragmentation, is known for its high endemism with 53% of the grasshopper species in this mountain block being endemic.

Due to the exceptionally high biodiversity found in the East Usambara Mountains, a lot of conservation activities have been implemented. Since 1993, the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group has been promoting forest conservation and attempting to establish wildlife corridors in order to reconnect the forest fragments.

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