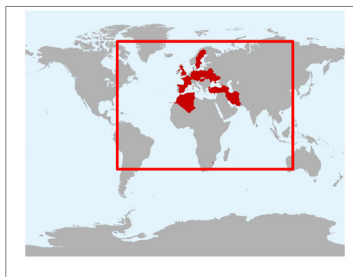




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Greater Capricorn Beetle

The **Greater Capricorn Beetle**, *Cerambyx cerdo*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Although it is still reasonably widely distributed, the population is in significant decline. It is a notably large beetle, which can grow up to 53 mm in length, and is dependent upon aged trees which are becoming increasingly scarce across Europe.

The larvae develop in large old oak trees where they grow in sheltered but sunny situations, such as hedgerows and in open farmed countryside. The beetle often gets blamed for the death of the host trees but this species is only attracted to dying trees and not to those that are alive and healthy.

The conservation of the Greater Capricorn Beetle relies on protecting veteran oaks in open country and to leave dying trees standing. More open forests with good sun penetration will favour this species. Conversely, non-intervention may also be a threat as the host trees may be killed prematurely through competition from younger trees. The increased shading then makes the old trees less suitable for the beetle.

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