***Alectoris chukar*** **System:** Terrestrial

| Kingdom | Phylum | Class | Order | Family |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Animalia | Chordata | Aves | Galliformes | Phasianidae |

**Common name** iwashako (Japanese), chucor (English), coturnice orientale (Italian), perdrix choukar (French), chukar (English), chukarhuhn (German), orebice cukar (Czech), berghöna (Swedish), perdiz chucar (Spanish), vuoripyy (Finnish), aziatische steenpatrijs (Dutch), perdiz-chukar (Portuguese), kuropta cukar (Slovak), chukor (English), Indian chukor (English), chukar partridge (English), chukor partridge (English), rock partridge (English), chukarhøne (Danish), góropatwa azjatycka (Polish), berghæna (Icelandic), berghøne (Norwegian)

**Synonym** *Alectoris kakelik*
*Tetrao kakelik*

**Similar species**

**Summary** *Alectoris chukar* has a wide distribution, stretching from the Aegean Sea through to Central and Eastern Asia. There does however seem to be two genetic clades within the species, those from the Mediterranean through to Central Asia and those from Eastern Asia. This is important as individuals used in the introduction into North America and Hawaii were from individuals from Eastern Asia; whereas individuals causing hybrization problems in Europe come from the Mediterranean and Central Asian clade. This hybridization is causing major problems to the genetic purity of the native *Alectoris rufa* in the Iberian Peninsula, and strict measures in regards to potential hybridization, and the importation and introduction of farm-reared individuals needs to be introduced.

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**Notes**
*Alectoris chukar* has a wide distribution, stretching from the Aegean Sea through to Central and Eastern Asia (Barbanera *et al*, 2009b). There does however seem to be two genetic clades within the species, those from the Mediterranean through to Central Asia and those from Eastern Asia (Barbanera *et al*, 2009b). The Himalayas seem to represent some sort of barrier between the two. Naturally *A. chukar* and *A. rufa* distributions do not cross, however recently *A. chukar* has been released for shooting alongside *A. rufa* in the United Kingdom, France and Italy which has lead to hybridisation in the wild occuring between the two species (Barbanera *et al* 2005).

**General Impacts**
*Alectoris chukar* is causing genetic purity issues in *A. rufa*, a native to the Iberian Peninsula through hybridization (Blanco-Aguiar *et al*, 2008).
Despite consuming large amounts of exotic plant material within the United States, *A. chukar* does not seem to spread these species through faecal distribution and thus may actually aid in their control (Larsen *et al*, 2007).

**Management Info**
Biological: Due to hybridization that can occur easily between *Alectoris chukar* and other *Alectoris* species, identifying populations that are more genetically pure than others is essential for the management of *A. chukar*. This concept, mentioned by Allendorf & and Luikart (2007; as seen in Barbanera *et al*, 2009a) was applied in a study by Barbanera *et al*, (2009a), in which they surveyed populations within the Mediterranean. This process though is applicable world-wide.
It now also seems that the genetic pollution caused by *A. chukar* is also occuring intra-specifically, as the two clades, one from the Mediterranean and Central Asia and the other from Eastern Asia, seem to be mixing with increased human movement (Barbanera *et al*, 2009b).

**Pathway**
*Alectoris chukar* has been introduced to many areas of Europe to help restock levels of game-relatives such as *A. rufa* (Blanco-Aguiar *et al*, 2008)

**Principal source:**

**Compiler:** IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

**Review:**

**Pubblication date:** 2010-06-08

**ALIEN RANGE**

**[2]** FRANCE
**[3]** ITALY
**[1]** PORTUGAL
**[2]** SPAIN
**[11]** UNITED STATES
**[1]** GREECE
**[1]** NEW ZEALAND
**[1]** SAINT HELENA
**[1]** UNITED KINGDOM

**Red List assessed species 2: NT = 2;**

Alectoris graeca **NT**
Alectoris rufa **NT**

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**Summary:** This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.
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