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Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Conophytum reconditum A.R.Mitch.
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE

National Status

Status and Criteria	Least Concern
Assessment Date	2015/06/10
Assessor(s)	A.J. Young & D. Raimondo

Justification An endemic to the Namaqualand region of South Africa, this species has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 2697 km². It is known from between 17 and 30 locations but is extremely abundant where it occurs, forming mats of thousands of individuals. Mature individuals are being removed from the wild to supply the increasing demand for Conophytums coming from Asian countries. The population is therefore declining. Ongoing monitoring of volume and extent of impact on the population is required. Declines are not likely to have caused the population to approach the decline thresholds



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for listing this species as threatened or near threatened. It remains least concern.

Distribution

Endemism South African endemic
Provincial distribution Northern Cape, Western Cape
Range Southern Kamiesberg and northern Knersvlakte.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system Terrestrial
Major habitats Fynbos, Succulent Karoo
Description Shallow grit pans on gneiss, often beneath small rocks and wedged in rock cracks.

Threats

There has been a significant increase in demand for Conophytums coming from Asian countries since March 2019. This species is popular in cultivation and some subpopulations are threatened by illegal collection.

Population

Conophytum reconditum is extremely abundant. There are many large subpopulations. It occurs in mat-forming colonies of several hundreds to thousands of plants. The population is likely declining at a slow rate due to illegal collection.

Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Conophytum reconditum A.R.Mitch.	LC	2017.1
Conophytum reconditum A.R.Mitch. subsp. reconditum	Least Concern	Raimondo et al. (2009)

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Citation

Young, A.J. & Raimondo, D. 2015. *Conophytum reconditum* A.R.Mitch. National Assessment: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on 2021/09/21

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