

## African Plants

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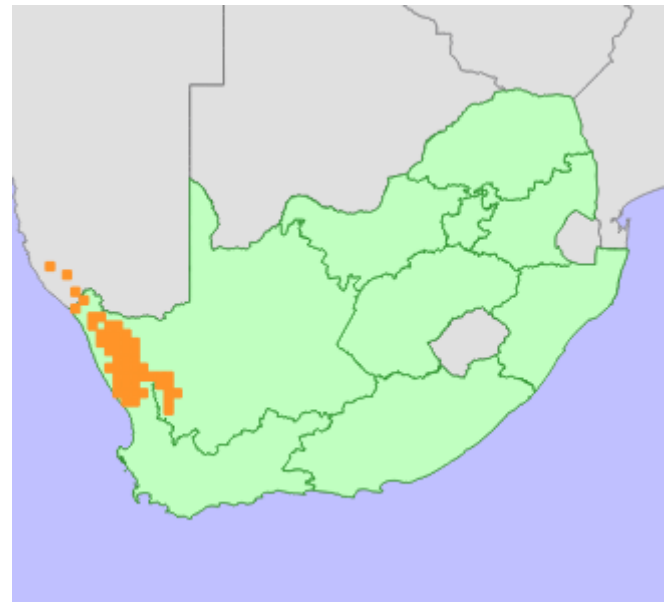
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### Taxonomy

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Conophytum pageae (N.E.Br.) N.E.Br.</b>
<b>Higher Classification</b>	Dicotyledons
<b>Family</b>	AIZOACEAE
<b>Synonyms</b>	Conophytum aequatum L.Bolus, Conophytum breve N.E.Br. var. minutiflorum (Schwantes) Rawé, Conophytum breve N.E.Br. var. swanepoelii Rawé in hort., Conophytum calculus (A.Berger) N.E.Br. var. protusum L.Bolus, Conophytum conformale N.E.Br. on drawing at K!, Conophytum forresteri L.Bolus, Conophytum johannis-winkleri (Dinter & Schwantes) N.E.Br., Conophytum labiatum Tischer, Conophytum longipetalum L.Bolus, Conophytum minutiflorum (Schwantes) N.E.Br., Conophytum oripictum N.E.Br. on drawing at K!, Conophytum pageae (N.E.Br.) N.E.Br. var. albiflorum Rawé, Conophytum pauperae L.Bolus, Conophytum poellnitzianum Schwantes, Conophytum productum L.Bolus, Conophytum schickianum Tischer,



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 subrisum (N.E.Br.)  
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 udabibense Loesch  
 & Tischer,  
 Conophytum victoris  
 Lavis, Conophytum  
 villetii L.Bolus,  
 Mesembryanthemum  
 johannis-winkleri  
 Dinter & Schwantes,  
 Mesembryanthemum  
 minutiflorum  
 (Schwantes)  
 Schwantes,  
 Mesembryanthemum  
 pageae N.E.Br.,  
 Mesembryanthemum  
 subrisum N.E.Br.

## National Status

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<b>Status and Criteria</b>	<b>Least Concern</b>
<b>Assessment Date</b>	2015/06/10
<b>Assessor(s)</b>	A.J. Young
<b>Justification</b>	<p>The most widespread species from genus Conophytum, it occurs commonly in Southern Namibia and the Namaqualand region of South Africa, has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 50 434 km<sup>2</sup>. It is known from more than 100 locations and is locally common, however it is currently being illegally harvested in huge quantities. While harvesting has been severe around the Kamiesberg and Springbok, to date it is unlikely that more than 5% of the population has been impacted. This species therefore remains in the category Least Concern. Urgent intervention is however required to find mechanisms to supply the massive new demand for this species coming from Asian countries.</p>

Monitoring and research is required to determine the impact of harvesting on populations and to determine how quickly this species can recover from harvesting.

## Distribution

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<b>Endemism</b>	Not endemic to South Africa
<b>Provincial distribution</b>	Northern Cape, Western Cape
<b>Range</b>	Southern Namibia to the Knersvlakte and Calvinia.

## Habitat and Ecology

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<b>Major system</b>	Terrestrial
<b>Major habitats</b>	Desert, Succulent Karoo
<b>Description</b>	Quartz gravel flats and ridges, gneiss, gypsum, shale, dolerite and sandstone outcrops, cliffs, sheltered or exposed pockets in rocks.

## Threats

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Illegal collecting to supply the specialist succulent horticultural trade is a major pressure on this species. It is currently the most highly sought after Conophytum. Between 5000 and 10 000 specimens have been removed from habitat since March 2019 with rates and volumes of harvesting increasing constantly. While this species has a relatively wide distribution, entire subpopulations have been severely affected or even decimated in Namaqualand. The populations in Kamiesberg, Garies, Bitterfontein, west of Springbok and around Steinkopf have been the most severely impacted.

## Population

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*C. pageae* is the most widespread and common of all Conophytum species.

<b>Population trend</b>	Stable
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## Assessment History

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Taxon	Status	Citation/Red
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**assessed and List version**  
**Criteria**  
Conophytum **Least** Raimondo et  
pageae **Concernal.** (2009)  
(N.E.Br.)  
N.E.Br.

## Bibliography

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Hammer, S. 2002. Dumpling and his wife: New view of the genus Conophytum. EAE Creative Colour, Norwich.

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## Citation

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