

Plants

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Dwarf Cycad

Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Encephalartos caffer (Thunb.) Lehm.
Higher Classification	Gymnosperms
Family	ZAMIACEAE
Common Names	Bosjesmansbrood (a), Breadfruit Tree (e), Breadtree (e), Broodboom (a), Dwarf Cycad (e)

National Status

Status and Criteria	Near Threatened A2
Assessment Date	2009/10/31
Assessor(s)	J.S. Donaldson
Justification	A widespread species whose habitat has deteriorated in places such as Bathurst due to livestock overgrazing and plants have also been collected in several places. The extent of decline is difficult to quantify, but is suspected to be close to 30%.

Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal
Range	Humansdorp to Oribi Gorge.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Albany Thicket, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt, Savanna
Description	Grassland and occasionally thicket, often among rocks.

Threats

The habitat of *E. caffer* is somewhat threatened as a result of clearing for agricultural purposes. This species has

Distribution map not available at present



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also been affected due to over-collecting for ornamental purposes.

Population

A widespread species that is difficult to assess due to its low growth form and it is easily missed in surveys. The population seems to comprise of numerous isolated subpopulations. Based on repeat photographs, the species appears to have declined in some areas by about 20% in the past 60 years.

Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Encephalartos caffer (Thunb.) Lehm.	NT A2	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Encephalartos caffer (Thunb.) Lehm.	VU B1B2abcD1D2	Scott-Shaw (1999)
Encephalartos caffer (Thunb.) Lehm.	Vulnerable	Hilton-Taylor (1996)
Encephalartos caffer (Thunb.) Lehm.	Vulnerable	Hall et al. (1980)

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Scott-Shaw, C.R. 1999. Rare and
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Nature Conservation Service,
Pietermaritzburg.

Citation

Donaldson, J.S. 2009. *Encephalartos
caffer* (Thunb.) Lehm. National
Assessment: Red List of South African
Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on
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