

## Plants

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## Dwarf Cycad

### Taxonomy

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

### National Status

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Status and Criteria</b> | <b>Near Threatened A2</b>   |
| <b>Assessment Date</b>     | 2009/10/31  |
| <b>Assessor(s)</b>         | J.S. Donaldson  |
| <b>Justification</b>       | 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

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Endemism</b>                | South African endemic       |
| <b>Provincial distribution</b> | Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal |
| <b>Range</b>                   | Humansdorp to Oribi Gorge.  |

### Habitat and Ecology

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Major system</b>   | Terrestrial  |
| <b>Major habitats</b> | Albany Thicket, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt, Savanna     |
| <b>Description</b>    | 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

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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

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| 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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### Citation

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Donaldson, J.S. 2009. *Encephalartos  
caffer* (Thunb.) Lehm. National  
Assessment: Red List of South African  
Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on  
2021/10/15

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