

## Plants

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## Blue Cycad

### Taxonomy

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Encephalartos horridus (Jacq.) Lehm.</b>
<b>Higher Classification</b>	Gymnosperms
<b>Family</b>	ZAMIACEAE
<b>Common Names</b>	Blue Cycad (e)

### National Status

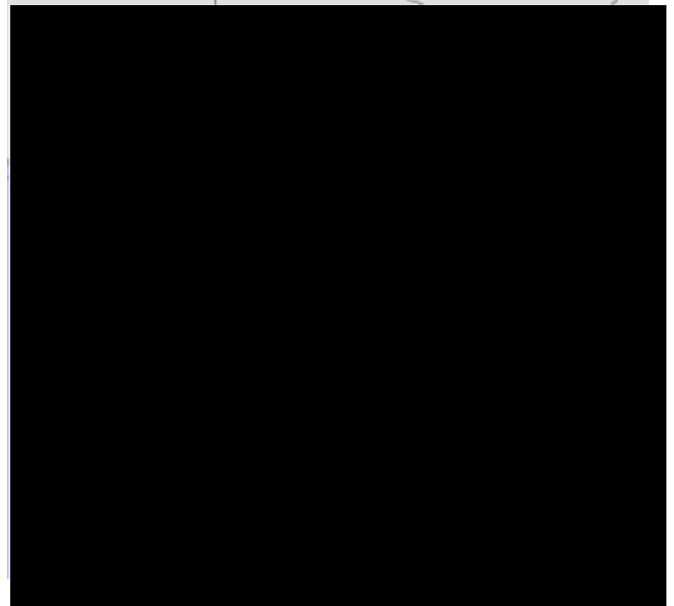
<b>Status and Criteria</b>	<b>Endangered A2cd</b>
<b>Assessment Date</b>	2009/10/31
<b>Assessor(s)</b>	J.S. Donaldson
<b>Justification</b>	Extinct in several parts of its former range, notably west of Port Elizabeth and near Uitenhage. It has a restricted distribution but does not qualify for EN in terms of the B criterion because there are more than five subpopulations that are not severely fragmented. Overall decline is difficult to judge, but is estimated as being over 50% based on habitat loss and declines recorded in repeat photographs.

### Distribution

<b>Endemism</b>	South African endemic
<b>Provincial distribution</b>	Eastern Cape
<b>Range</b>	Port Elizabeth to Uitenhage.

### Habitat and Ecology

<b>Major system</b>	Terrestrial
<b>Major</b>	Sundays Valley Thicket,



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**habitats** Bethelsdorp Bontveld  
**Description** Xeric thicket, often on rocky quartzite outcrops.

## Threats

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Threatened by habitat loss to urban expansion and overcollecting for ornamental/horticultural purposes.

## Population

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*E. horridus* is now extinct in several parts of its former range where all populations have been removed by urban development. Substantial numbers have also been removed by collectors in the past 50 years. It is difficult to estimate what proportion of plants have disappeared, however, it may be as high as 50%.

**Population trend** Decreasing

## Conservation

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Protected in several private game reserves.

## Assessment History

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Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Encephalartos horridus (Jacq.) Lehm.	<b>EN A2cd</b>	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Encephalartos horridus (Jacq.) Lehm.	<b>Vulnerable</b>	Hilton-Taylor (1996)
Encephalartos horridus (Jacq.) Lehm.	<b>Vulnerable</b>	Hall et al. (1980)

## Bibliography

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Raimondo, D., von Staden, L., Foden, W., Victor, J.E., Helme, N.A., Turner, R.C., Kamundi, D.A. and Manyama, P.A. 2009. Red List of South African Plants. *Strelitzia* 25. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

## Citation

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

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