

## Plants

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## Barberton Cycad

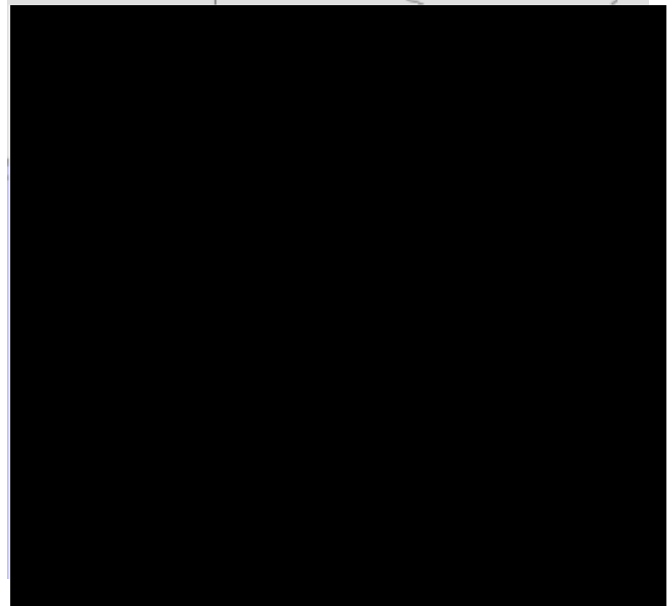
### Taxonomy

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Encephalartos paucidentatus</b> <b>Stapf &amp; Burt Davy</b>
<b>Higher Classification</b>	Gymnosperms
<b>Family</b>	ZAMIACEAE
<b>Common Names</b>	Barberton Cycad (e), Barberton-broodboom (a), Broodboom (a), Cycad (e), Kafferboom (a), Kafferbroodboom (a)

### National Status

<b>Status and Criteria</b>	<b>Vulnerable A2acd; B1ab(v)+2ab(v); C1</b>
<b>Assessment Date</b>	2009/10/31
<b>Assessor(s)</b>	J.S. Donaldson
<b>Justification</b>	Although once regarded as relatively abundant, subpopulations have declined across its range. The full extent of decline is unknown, but it has been substantial in some subpopulations as a result of harvesting for horticultural purposes. Afforestation has also lead to habitat loss in the past. Overall population reduction is suspected to exceed 30% in the past 60 years (two generations). EOO 42 km <sup>2</sup> , plants at fewer than 10 locations continue to decline due to ongoing poaching and habitat loss. The remaining population is small, numbering less than 5000 mature individuals.

### Distribution



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<b>Endemism</b>	Not endemic to South Africa
<b>Provincial distribution</b>	Mpumalanga
<b>Range</b>	Barberton and Swaziland.

## Habitat and Ecology

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<b>Major system</b>	Terrestrial
<b>Major habitats</b>	Scarp Forest, Northern Mistbelt Forest, Northern Afrotropical Forest
<b>Description</b>	Forest, occurs on steep rocky slopes and alongside streams in deep gorges.

## Threats

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The wild populations of *E. paucidentatus* have suffered both from the activities of illegal collectors and due the afforestation programs in the area.

## Population

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Although once regarded as a relatively abundant cycad, populations have declined across its range. The population size of *E. paucidentatus* was originally estimated to be 8000-12 000 mature individuals but recent estimates suggest that it is probably less (3000-5000). In some monitored populations in Mpumalanga, 85% population declines were observed over 10-15 years. An overall population reduction of at least 30% over three generations is estimated based on habitat loss and collecting pressure. It is projected that the population will continue to decline by at least 10% within the next 30 years.

**Population trend** Decreasing

## Conservation

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Plants are protected in two provincial nature reserves in Mpumalanga and one in Swaziland. Nurseries that were closely linked to rural communities were established for *E. paucidentatus*.

## Assessment History

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Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Encephalartos paucidentatus	VU A2acd	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Stapf & Burtt Davy		
Encephalartos	Vulnerable	Hilton-Taylor

paucidentatus (1996)  
 Stapf & Burtt  
 Davy  
 Encephalartos **Rare** Hall et al.  
 paucidentatus (1980)  
 Stapf & Burtt  
 Davy

## Bibliography

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Donaldson, J.S. 2003. Cycads. Status survey and conservation action plan. IUCN/SSC Cycad Specialist Group, Gland, Switzerland; Cambridge, UK.

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Hall, A.V., De Winter, M., De Winter, B. and Van Oosterhout, S.A.M. 1980. Threatened plants of southern Africa. South African National Scientific Programmes Report 45. CSIR, Pretoria.

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## Citation

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