

Plants

[Red List statistics methodology](#)

[Summary of recent changes](#)
[Glossary](#) [Guidelines for EIAs](#)

[National Red List categories](#)

[Assessment](#)

Browse

- [Genera: A](#)
- [Genera: B](#)
- [Genera: C](#)
- [Genera: D](#)
- [Genera: E](#)
- [Genera: F](#)
- [Genera: G](#)
- [Genera: H](#)
- [Genera: I](#)
- [Genera: J](#)
- [Genera: K](#)
- [Genera: L](#)
- [Genera: M](#)
- [Genera: N](#)
- [Genera: O](#)
- [Genera: P](#)
- [Genera: Q](#)
- [Genera: R](#)
- [Genera: S](#)
- [Genera: T](#)
- [Genera: U](#)
- [Genera: V](#)
- [Genera: W](#)
- [Genera: X](#)
- [Genera: Y](#)
- [Genera: Z](#)

[Home](#) >> [Genera: E](#) >> [Genus: Encephalartos](#)

Poor Man's Cycad

Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Encephalartos villosus Lem.
Higher Classification	Gymnosperms
Family	ZAMIACEAE
Synonyms	Encephalartos striatus Stapf & Burtt Davy
Common Names	Ground Cycad (e), Isidwaba-somkhovu (z), Isigqikisomkhovu (z), Isikomakhoma Sehlati (z), Poor Man's Cycad (e), Stamlose Broodboom (a), Umgusa (x), Umphanga (x)

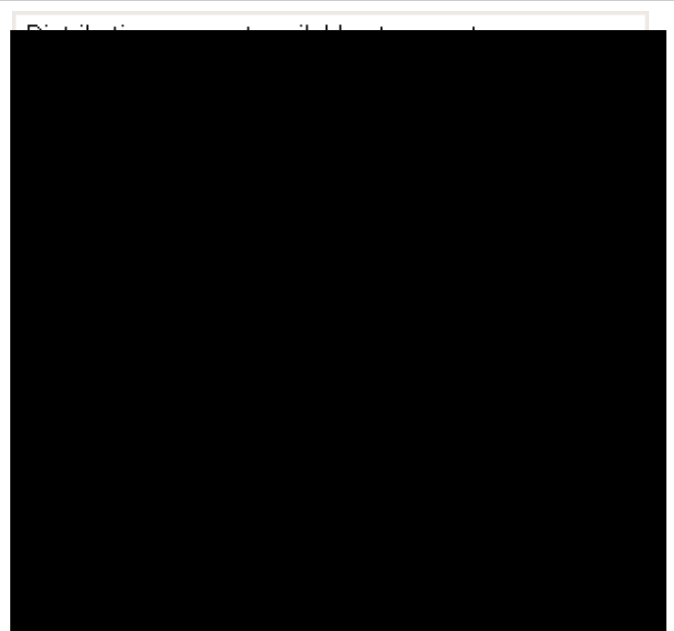
National Status

Status and Criteria	Least Concern
Assessment Date	2009/10/31
Assessor(s)	J.S. Donaldson
Justification	A widespread species and one of the most common cycads in South Africa. There are numerous large subpopulations including several in protected areas, and although threatened and declining in some areas, it is not yet in danger of extinction.

Distribution

Endemism	Not endemic to South Africa
Provincial distribution	Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal
Range	KwaZulu-Natal to East London, also occurring in Swaziland.

Habitat and Ecology



Search for images of *Encephalartos villosus* on [iNaturalist](#)

Major system Terrestrial
Major habitats Forest, Indian Ocean Coastal Belt
Description Sub-tropical coastal forests.

Threats

There is some evidence of collecting for ornamental purposes but this is a fast growing species that is easy to cultivate. There is also some degree of habitat loss as a result of land clearing for agricultural purposes.

Population

E. villosus is a common and widespread species. There are several substantial subpopulations throughout its range with a total population probably in excess of 100 000 plants.

Population trend Decreasing

Conservation

Plants occur in a number of nature reserves and Natural Heritage Sites.

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Encephalartos villosus Lem.	Least Concern	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Encephalartos villosus Lem.	Lower Risk - Least Concern	Scott-Shaw (1999)
Encephalartos villosus Lem.	Not Threatened	Hilton-Taylor (1996)
Encephalartos villosus Lem.	Rare	Hall et al. (1980)

Bibliography

Boon, R. 2010. Pooley's Trees of eastern South Africa. Flora and Fauna Publications Trust, Durban.

Goode, D. 1989. Cycads of Africa. Struik/Winchester, Cape Town.

Grobbelaar, N. 2003. Cycads. With special reference to the southern African species. (2nd ed.). Nat Grobbelaar, Pretoria.

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.

Hilton-Taylor, C. 1996. Red data list of southern African plants. *Strelitzia* 4. South African National Botanical Institute, Pretoria.

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.

Scott-Shaw, C.R. 1999. Rare and threatened plants of KwaZulu-Natal and neighbouring regions. KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service, Pietermaritzburg.

Citation

Donaldson, J.S. 2009. *Encephalartos villosus* Lem. National Assessment: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on 2021/10/15

 [Comment on this assessment](#)

(c) South African National Biodiversity Institute ([SANBI](#)) 2010-12.