

## African Plants

[Red List statistics methodology](#)
[Summary of recent changes Glossary Guidelines for EIAs](#)
[National Red List categories](#)
[Assessment](#)

### Browse

[Home >> Genera: C >> Genus: Conophytum](#)

- [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](#)

### Taxonomy

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Conophytum rugosum</b> <b>S.A.Hammer</b>
<b>Higher Classification</b>	Dicotyledons
<b>Family</b>	AIZOACEAE

### National Status

<b>Status and Criteria</b>	<b>Least Concern</b>
<b>Assessment Date</b>	2020/02/11
<b>Assessor(s)</b>	P.C.V. Van Wyk & D. Raimondo
<b>Justification</b>	A species endemic to Namaqualand region of the Northern Cape, South Africa. It has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 3617 km <sup>2</sup> . It is generally widespread and common in the region. However, it has recently come under significant pressure from illegal succulent collecting, with thousands of plants being harvested on an ongoing basis. The overall population is declining but poaching has not likely impacted more than 5% of the population. Ongoing monitoring of the volumes of wild harvested plants traded is required. While declining it has not yet crossed thresholds to be listed as threatened



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with extinction it therefore still qualifies as Least Concern.

## Distribution

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**Endemism** South African endemic  
**Provincial distribution** Northern Cape, Western Cape  
**Range** Namaqualand, between Bitterfontein and Kamieskroon.

## Habitat and Ecology

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**Major system** Terrestrial  
**Major habitats** Namaqualand Klipkoppe Shrubland, Kamiesberg Mountains Shrubland, Southern Namaqualand Quartzite Klipkoppe Shrubland, Namaqualand Heuweltjieveld  
**Description** Shallow grit pans on gneiss and granite domes.

## Threats

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There has been a large trade in wild sourced plants of this species since 2019. Asian traders are paying local people in the Richtersveld to collect this species. For example a Chinese buyer solicited 10 000 heads of this species in December 2019. Local people from the region collected 14 667 heads, which were intercepted by police. Plants at most have three heads per plant, this single police bust represents 5000 plants that was removed from habitat. Many more plants are suspected to have been exported from South Africa. This species is therefore in decline. It is however relatively widespread and abundant and declines are not yet likely impacting more than 5% of the population.

## Population

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*Conophytum rugosum* is widespread and abundant. Since 2019 this species has come into demand for the horticultural trade in Asia, it is now being harvested on mass and the populations is in decline, however due to it being so widespread and abundant declines

are not suspected to have impacted more than 5% of the population to date.

**Population trend** Decreasing

### Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Conophytum rugosum S.A.Hammer	<b>Least Concern</b>	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Conophytum rugosum S.A.Hammer	<b>Lower Risk - Least Concern</b>	Victor (2002)
Conophytum rugosum S.A.Hammer	<b>Rare</b>	Hilton-Taylor (1996)

### 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.

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## Citation

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Van Wyk, P.C.V. & Raimondo, D.  
2020. *Conophytum rugosum*  
S.A.Hammer. National  
Assessment: Red List of South  
African Plants version 2020.1.  
Accessed on 2021/09/21

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