

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](#)

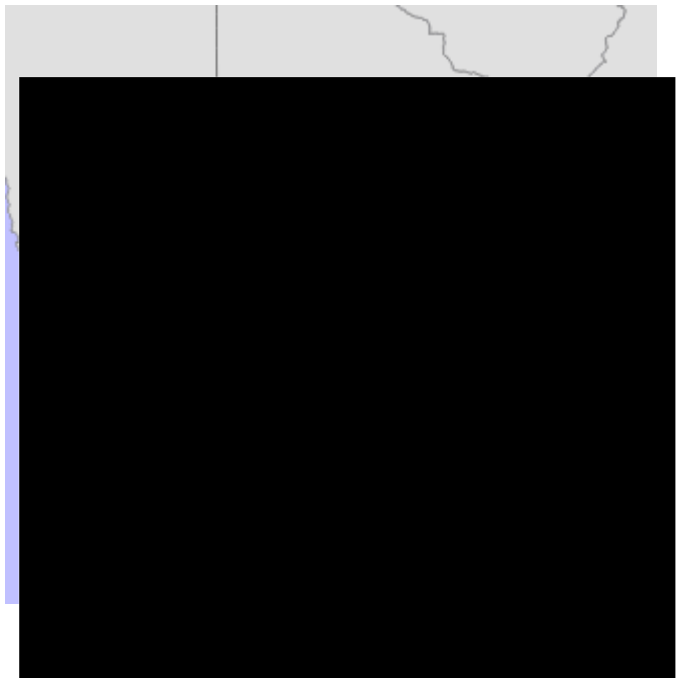
Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Conophytum bruynsii S.A.Hammer
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE

National Status

Status and Criteria	Critically Endangered B1ab(v)+2ab(v)
Assessment Date	2020/02/10
Assessor(s)	A.J. Young & D. Raimondo
Justification	This is a localized species to the Western Cape Province, South Africa, with all known subpopulations occurring within an area of 0.017 km ² . Based on the IUCN guidelines this species has an extent of occurrence (EOO) and an area of occupancy (AOO) of 4 km ² . It is known from a single location where ongoing decline is inferred to be taking place due to the recent surge in illegal harvesting of rare Conophytums taking place across the Western and Northern Cape. This species therefore qualifies as Critically Endangered under criterion B.

Distribution



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Search for images of *Conophytum bruynsii* on [iNaturalist](#)

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Western Cape
Range	Northern Knersvlakte, in the Western Cape Province of South Africa.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Southern Namaqualand Quartzite Klipkoppe Shrubland
Description	Exposed, west-facing sandstone slopes.

Threats

Plants occur on land that is used for livestock grazing. Habitat degradation as well as trampling is a potential threat. It is a rare and localized species and is increasingly popular in cultivation and in demand by collectors. Illegal collection is highly likely to have taken place given the recent rapid increase in demand for *Conophytums* coming from China, Japan and Korea and the significant increase in illegal poaching events taking place across the Northern Cape since March 2019.

Population

This species is localized to a single ridge where it is locally abundant, with the population consisting of more than 1000 individuals. Population decline is inferred due to illegal collecting.

Population trend	Decreasing
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Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Conophytum bruynsii S.A.Hammer	VU D2	2017.1
Conophytum bruynsii S.A.Hammer	Least Concernal.	Raimondo et al. (2009)

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Citation

Young, A.J. & Raimondo, D. 2020.
Conophytum bruynsii S.A.Hammer.
National Assessment: Red List of
South African Plants version
2020.1. Accessed on 2021/09/22

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