

## African Plants

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## Conophytum buysianum subsp. politum

### Taxonomy

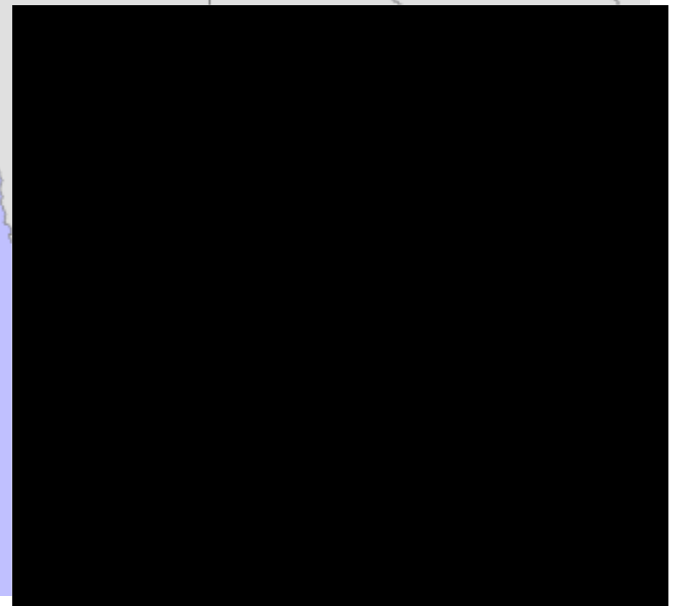
Scientific Name	<b>Conophytum buysianum</b> <b>A.R.Mitch. &amp; S.A.Hammer</b> <b>subsp. politum</b> <b>A.J.Young &amp; Rodgerson</b>
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE

### National Status

Status and Criteria	<b>Endangered</b> <b>B1ab(v)+2ab(v)</b>
Assessment Date	2020/02/10
Assessor(s)	A.J. Young & D. Raimondo
Justification	A localized taxon endemic to the Namaqualand region of South Africa. It is known from an area of 1 km <sup>2</sup> has an extent of occurrence (EOO) and an area of occupancy (AOO) of 8 km <sup>2</sup> . Three threat based locations are declining due to illegal succulent collecting.

### Distribution

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



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## Habitat and Ecology

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<b>Major system</b>	Terrestrial
<b>Major habitats</b>	Namaqualand Klipkoppe Shrubland
<b>Description</b>	Cracks and fissures of granite domes, particularly in areas sheltered under rock lips, but also at the edges of shallow grit pans.

## Threats

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This taxon is in high demand by collectors, which is heightened by poor survival rates ex situ. Although locally abundant, it is extremely localized in its distribution range, and removal of plants from the wild is causing ongoing decline to the population. Furthermore, habitat loss and degradation due to mining is also a potential threat - prospecting activities have been observed near subpopulations of this taxon (Young et al. 2011).

## Population

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This taxon has a restricted range, but is locally abundant, with subpopulations all numbering several thousand individuals. These are now under pressure from collecting and are declining.

**Population trend** Decreasing

## Assessment History

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Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Conophytum buysianum A.R.Mitch. & S.A.Hammer subsp. politum A.J.Young & Rodgerson	VU D2	2017.1

## Bibliography

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Young, A.J., Rodgerson, C. and Hammer, S.A. 2011. The rough and the smooth: a reassessment of *Conophytum reconditum*. *Bradleya* 29:93-102.

## Citation

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

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