

African Plants

[Red List statistics
methodology](#)

[Summary of recent changes
Glossary](#)

[National Red List categories](#)

[Assessment](#)

Browse

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

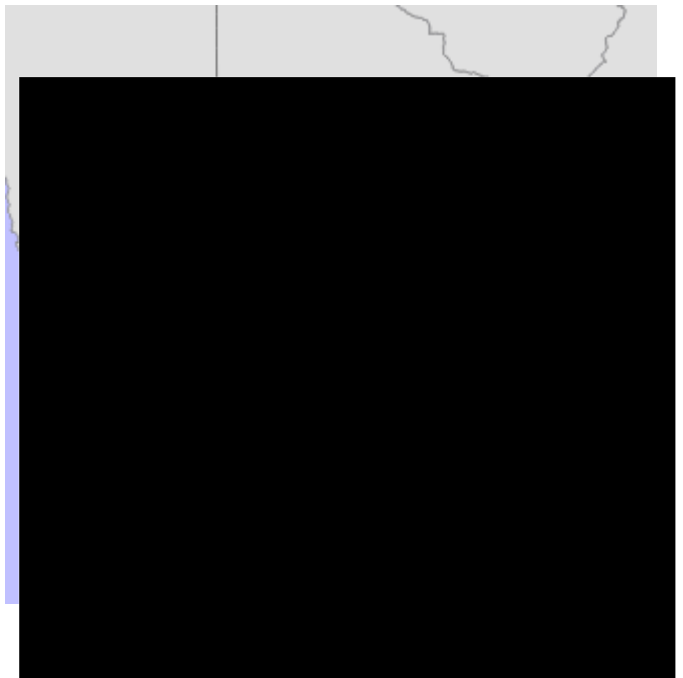
- [Genera: A](#)
- [Genera: B](#)
- [Genera: C](#)
- [Genera: D](#)
- [Genera: E](#)
- [Genera: F](#)
- [Genera: G](#)
- [Genera: H](#)
- [Genera: I](#)
- [Genera: J](#)
- [Genera: K](#)
- [Genera: L](#)
- [Genera: M](#)
- [Genera: N](#)
- [Genera: O](#)
- [Genera: P](#)
- [Genera: Q](#)
- [Genera: R](#)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

Taxonomy

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

National Status

Status and Criteria	Critically Endangered B1ab(v)+2ab(v)
Assessment Date	2020/02/11
Assessor(s)	A.J. Young & D. Raimondo
Justification	A highly localised species known from a single ridge in the Namaqualand region of South Africa. While occupying a tiny area of 0.0004 km ² it has according to the IUCN Red List guidelines an extent of occurrence (EOO) and an area of occupancy (AOO) of 4 km ² . The entire population was estimated to be between 500-1000 individuals in 2015. In 2019 226 individuals were removed from the wild by succulent collectors. There is extreme and severe ongoing collection pressure on this species, without continued intensive enforcement efforts this species is highly likely to go extinct in the wild.



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Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Northern Cape
Range	Namaqualand west of Steinkopf, in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Namaqualand Klipkoppe Shrubland
Description	Sheltered crevices at the edges of steep quartzite cliffs.

Threats

This species is extremely rare and highly desirable among succulent collectors. The population is very small and any removal of plants from the wild is likely to increase its risk of extinction. Illegal poaching pressure on this species is high, three Koreans were caught with 226 plants in mid 2019, after receiving fines, they returned to collect again in September 2019, but were caught again before they could collect. Poachers are collecting adult plants as well as seed capsules.

Population

This species is known from a single subpopulation of an estimated 500-1000 mature individuals localized to a single ridge. The population is declining due to illegal collecting.

Population trend	Decreasing
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Assessment History

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

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Conophytum chrisocruxum
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2021/09/22

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