

African Plants

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Taxonomy

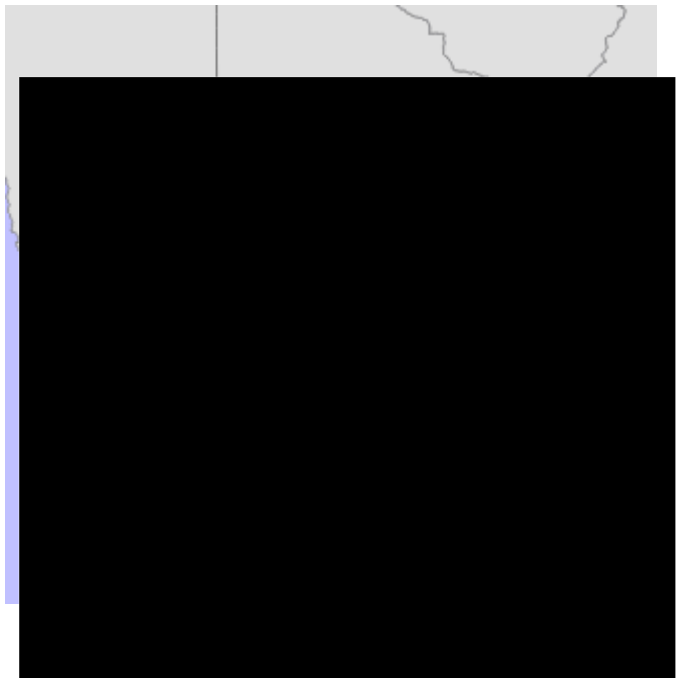
Scientific Name	Conophytum chrisolum S.A.Hammer
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE

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 site in the Namaqualand region of South Africa. While occupying a tiny area of under 1 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. There is an ongoing decline in the number of mature individuals as a result of illegal collection to supply the growing demand for Conophytum plants amongst specialist succulent collectors.

Distribution

Endemism South African



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Provincial distribution endemic
Northern Cape

Range Namaqualand west of Steinkopf, in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system Terrestrial

Major habitats Namaqualand Heuweltjieveld

Description Pans of thin quartz scree.

Threats

The small, highly localised, population of slow-growing plants has been subject to illegal collection in recent years, with high prices being paid for plants. Collection is causing ongoing decline to the population and is considered a major extinction threat to this species.

Population

This species is an extremely localized habitat specialist, known from a single subpopulation of about 500-1000 individuals. There is ongoing decline due to illegal collection.

Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Conophytum chrisolum	VU	D1+2 2017.1 S.A.Hammer
Conophytum chrisolum	Critically Rare	Raimondo et al. (2009) S.A.Hammer

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Citation

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