

African Plants

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Taxonomy

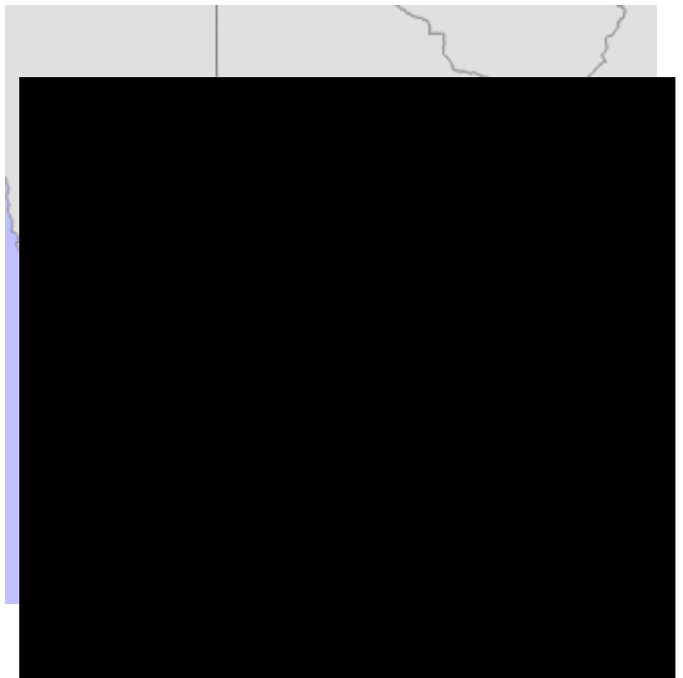
Scientific Name	Conophytum minusculum (N.E.Br.) N.E.Br. subsp. leipoldtii (N.E.Br.) S.A.Hammer
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE
Synonyms	Conophytum leipoldtii N.E.Br.

National Status

Status and Criteria	Endangered B1ab(v)+2ab(v)
Assessment Date	2020/02/08
Assessor(s)	A.J. Young & D. Raimondo
Justification	A range-restricted taxon endemic to the Western Cape Province, South Africa, it has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 27 km ² and an area of occupancy (AOO) of 20 km ² . There are between two and four threat based locations. An ongoing decline in mature individuals is taking place as a result of illegal collecting for the specialist succulent horticultural trade.

Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Western Cape
Range	Clanwilliam.



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Habitat and Ecology

Major system Terrestrial
Major habitats Fynbos, Succulent Karoo
Description Crevices in weathered quartzitic sandstone.

Threats

Sandstone fynbos around known subpopulations of this taxon are being rapidly ploughed up for rooibos tea cultivation - crop fields are often within tens of meters of subpopulations. This taxon however occurs wedged in crevices in sandstone outcrops that are unsuitable to cultivation, and ploughing has had little or no impact on the population. The indirect impacts of agricultural activities such as herbicide and fertilizer drift are not known. Since March 2019 this taxon has come under pressure from illegal collecting, with 40 specimens obtained from Korean poachers in 2019.

Population

This taxon is locally abundant, with the population estimated to be between 5000 and 10 000 mature individuals. The impact of recent illegal collecting on the population has not be quantified.

Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Conophytum minusculum (N.E.Br.) subsp. leipoldtii (N.E.Br.) S.A.Hammer	Rare	2017.1
Conophytum minusculum (N.E.Br.) subsp. leipoldtii (N.E.Br.) S.A.Hammer	Least Concern	Raimondo et al. (2009)

Bibliography

Hammer, S. 1993. Dwarf dwarfs:

Conophytum, the section
Minuscula. Haseltonia 1:18-28.

Hammer, S. 2002. Dumpling and his wife: New view of the genus Conophytum. EAE Creative Colour, Norwich.

Hammer, S.A. 1993. The genus Conophytum: A conograph. Succulent Plant Publications, Pretoria.

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.

Citation

Young, A.J. & Raimondo, D. 2020. Conophytum minusculum (N.E.Br.) N.E.Br. subsp. leipoldtii (N.E.Br.) S.A.Hammer. National Assessment: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on 2021/09/25

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