

## African Plants

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### Taxonomy

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Conophytum subterraneum</b> <b>T.Smale &amp; T.Jacobs</b>
<b>Higher Classification</b>	Dicotyledons
<b>Family</b>	AIZOACEAE

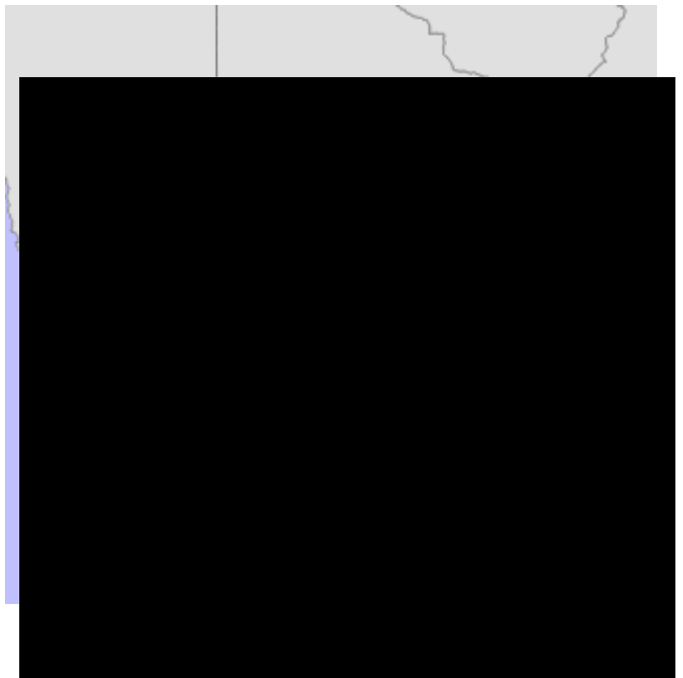
### National Status

<b>Status and Criteria</b>	<b>Vulnerable D2</b>
<b>Assessment Date</b>	2020/02/05
<b>Assessor(s)</b>	D. Raimondo & A.J. Young
<b>Justification</b>	A highly range-restricted species from the Richtersveld South Africa, it occurs in an area of less than 1 km <sup>2</sup> , and is only known from a single population occurring at one location. The extent of occurrence (EOO) and area of occupancy (AOO) is 4 km <sup>2</sup> . This species is potentially threatened by illegal harvesting as it is very popular in cultivation. It therefore qualifies as vulnerable under criterion D2.

### Distribution

<b>Endemism</b>	South African endemic
<b>Provincial distribution</b>	Northern Cape
<b>Range</b>	Richtersveld near Eksteenfontein.

### Habitat and Ecology



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- **Genera:**  
**Z**

**Major system** Terrestrial

**Major habitats** Desert

**Description** Gently sloping quartz pebble patches in Kahams Mountain Desert vegetation, 750-1100 m.

## Threats

This species is increasingly popular in cultivation and in demand by collectors. Illegal collection is a potential threat to the single very small and highly localised, but remote, population.

## Population

This species is known from a single, large, subpopulation consisting of more than 1000 mature individuals.

**Population trend** Stable

## Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Conophytum subterraneum	<b>Critically Rare</b>	2015.1 T.Smale & T.Jacobs
Conophytum subterraneum	<b>Rare</b>	Raimondo et al. (2009) T.Smale & T.Jacobs

## Bibliography

Desmet, P.G., Jacobs, T.L.K.F. and Smale, T.C. 2001. *Conophytum subterraneum*, a distinctive new species from the north-eastern Richtersveld, South Africa. *Bradleya* 19:15-18.

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

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.

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## Citation

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