

African Plants

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Taxonomy

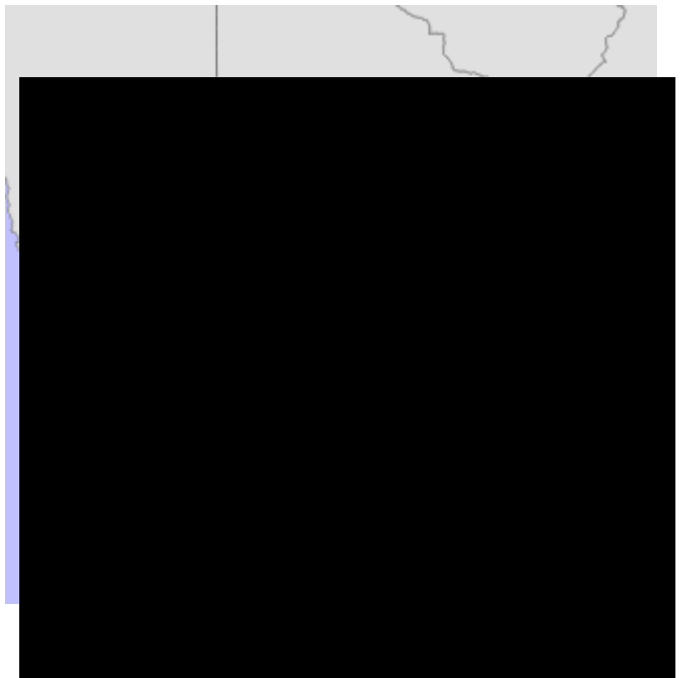
Scientific Name	Conophytum tantillum N.E.Br. subsp. heleniae (Rawé) S.A.Hammer
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE
Synonyms	Conophytum heleniae Rawé

National Status

Status and Criteria	Critically Endangered B1ab(v)
Assessment Date	2020/02/05
Assessor(s)	A.J. Young & D. Raimondo
Justification	A range-restricted endemic taxon known from one location from an area of 2 km ² . This taxon has an extent of occurrence (EOO) and area of occupancy (AOO) of 12 km ² . It is locally abundant but is however currently being targeted for the illegal succulent trade. It therefore qualifies as Critically Endangered under criterion B1.

Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Northern Cape
Range	Namaqualand near Steinkopf.



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Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Anenous Plateau Shrubland
Description	This species occurs in fine quartz gravel on flats and slopes, as well as in crevices in quartz outcrops.

Threats

The population occurs on communal rangelands that are overstocked with livestock. At present, grazing pressure is relatively low on the slopes and summits of the quartz ridges where it occurs. Habitat degradation and trampling by large herds of livestock does however pose a potential future threat to this species as it occurs on open quartz. This taxon has recently come under illegal poaching pressure with 15 plants obtained from Korean poachers in 2019. Many more plants are likely to have been poached and the pressure to supply the large demand for *Conophytums* is ongoing.

Population

This taxon is localized, locally abundant, and the population is currently on declining due to illegal collection.

Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Conophytum tantillum N.E.Br. subsp. heleniae (Rawé) S.A.Hammer	VU D2	2015.1
Conophytum tantillum N.E.Br. subsp. heleniae (Rawé) S.A.Hammer	Least Concernal.	Raimondo et al. (2009)

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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

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