

African Plants

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Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Conophytum pageae (N.E.Br.) N.E.Br.
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE
Synonyms	Conophytum aequatum L.Bolus, Conophytum breve N.E.Br. var. minutiflorum (Schwantes) Rawé, Conophytum breve N.E.Br. var. swanepoelii Rawé in hort., Conophytum calculus (A.Berger) N.E.Br. var. protusum L.Bolus, Conophytum conformale N.E.Br. on drawing at K!, Conophytum forresteri L.Bolus, Conophytum johannis-winkleri (Dinter & Schwantes) N.E.Br., Conophytum labiatum Tischer, Conophytum longipetalum L.Bolus, Conophytum minutiflorum (Schwantes) N.E.Br., Conophytum oripictum N.E.Br. on drawing at K!, Conophytum pageae (N.E.Br.) N.E.Br. var. albiflorum Rawé, Conophytum pauperae L.Bolus, Conophytum poellnitzianum Schwantes, Conophytum productum L.Bolus, Conophytum schickianum Tischer,



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 subrisum (N.E.Br.)
 N.E.Br., Conophytum
 tenuisectum L.Bolus,
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 Conophytum
 udabibense Loesch
 & Tischer,
 Conophytum victoris
 Lavis, Conophytum
 villetii L.Bolus,
 Mesembryanthemum
 johannis-winkleri
 Dinter & Schwantes,
 Mesembryanthemum
 minutiflorum
 (Schwantes)
 Schwantes,
 Mesembryanthemum
 pageae N.E.Br.,
 Mesembryanthemum
 subrisum N.E.Br.

National Status

Status and Criteria	Least Concern
Assessment Date	2015/06/10
Assessor(s)	A.J. Young
Justification	<p>The most widespread species from genus Conophytum, it occurs commonly in Southern Namibia and the Namaqualand region of South Africa, has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 50 434 km². It is known from more than 100 locations and is locally common, however it is currently being illegally harvested in huge quantities. While harvesting has been severe around the Kamiesberg and Springbok, to date it is unlikely that more than 5% of the population has been impacted. This species therefore remains in the category Least Concern. Urgent intervention is however required to find mechanisms to supply the massive new demand for this species coming from Asian countries.</p>

Monitoring and research is required to determine the impact of harvesting on populations and to determine how quickly this species can recover from harvesting.

Distribution

Endemism	Not endemic to South Africa
Provincial distribution	Northern Cape, Western Cape
Range	Southern Namibia to the Knersvlakte and Calvinia.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Desert, Succulent Karoo
Description	Quartz gravel flats and ridges, gneiss, gypsum, shale, dolerite and sandstone outcrops, cliffs, sheltered or exposed pockets in rocks.

Threats

Illegal collecting to supply the specialist succulent horticultural trade is a major pressure on this species. It is currently the most highly sought after Conophytum. Between 5000 and 10 000 specimens have been removed from habitat since March 2019 with rates and volumes of harvesting increasing constantly. While this species has a relatively wide distribution, entire subpopulations have been severely affected or even decimated in Namaqualand. The populations in Kamiesberg, Garies, Bitterfontein, west of Springbok and around Steinkopf have been the most severely impacted.

Population

C. pageae is the most widespread and common of all Conophytum species.

Population trend	Stable
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Assessment History

Taxon	Status	Citation/Red
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assessed and List version
Criteria
Conophytum **Least** Raimondo et
pageae **Concernal.** (2009)
(N.E.Br.)
N.E.Br.

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Citation

Young, A.J. 2015. Conophytum pageae (N.E.Br.) N.E.Br. National Assessment: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on 2021/09/21

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