

African Plants

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Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Conophytum calculus (A.Berger) N.E.Br. subsp. vanzylii (Lavis) S.A.Hammer
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE
Synonyms	Conophytum breve N.E.Br. var. vanzylii (Lavis) Rawé, Conophytum namiesicum L.Bolus, Conophytum vanzylii Lavis

National Status

Status and Criteria	Vulnerable A4cd
Assessment Date	2020/02/10
Assessor(s)	A.J. Young & D. Raimondo
Justification	This taxon is endemic to western Bushmanland in South Africa and has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 3726 km ² . It is known from between 15 and 20 small scattered subpopulations. This slow growing taxon is under heavy demand by succulent collectors. A 30 to 40% decline over a moving three generation time period of thirty years starting from 2010 is projected based on observed loss of habitat and degradation of



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habitat at certain subpopulations and as a result of the marked increase in illegal collecting taking place since 2016. With this taxon being highly popular with collectors, ongoing declines are predicted to continue. This species therefore qualifies as Vulnerable under criterion A4.

Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Northern Cape
Range	Springbok to Pofadder, in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Nama Karoo, Succulent Karoo
Description	Quartz patches within succulent karoo and nama karoo, often on Bushmanland Inselbergs.

Threats

Highly sought after by collectors in recent years, this slow-growing taxon, is threatened. While its more widespread and scattered distribution compared to subsp. *calculus* affords some protection from exploitation, ongoing decline is none the less taking place. Furthermore there are scattered mines within this taxon's range, and prospecting and mining expansion is ongoing affecting a number of subpopulations. It is also vulnerable to habitat degradation, particularly trampling by livestock when rangelands are overstocked. Some parts of its range, particularly low-lying flats, are heavily grazed.

Population

This taxon is widespread across western Bushmanland. It typically occurs as scattered individuals, or

in small clumps of five or more individuals. There are at least 15 known subpopulations, and more are likely to exist. The population size is not known, but is suspected to exceed 1000 individuals. The population is declining due to illegal collecting, habitat loss to mining and habitat degradation from livestock overgrazing.

Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Conophytum calculus (A.Berger) N.E.Br. subsp. vanzylii (Lavis) S.A.Hammer	Least Concernal.	Raimondo et al. (2009)

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Citation

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