

African Plants

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Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Conophytum comptonii N.E.Br.
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE

National Status

Status and Criteria	Near Threatened B1ab(v)+2ab(v)
Assessment Date	2020/02/11
Assessor(s)	A.J. Young
Justification	A range-restricted habitat specialist endemic to Bokkeveld Sandstone Fynbos (extent of occurrence (EOO) 1236 km ² , area of occupancy (AOO) 56 - 100km ²). Known from 10-15 locations and it is declining due to illegal succulent collecting. It therefore qualifies for listing as Near Threatened under Criterion B.



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Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Northern Cape, Western Cape
Range	Bokkeveld Escarpment from Nieuwoudtville to the Matsikamma Mountain.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system Terrestrial

Major habitats	Fynbos
Description	Shallow, seasonally wet gritty pans on sandstone outcrops in Bokkeveld Sandstone Fynbos.

Threats

Sandstone fynbos along the top of the Bokkeveld Escarpment is extensively cultivated, however, this species' particular niche habitat is unsuitable to cultivation, and it is unlikely to be impacted by agricultural expansion. So while safe from cultivation unfortunately this species is highly sought after by collectors, there has been a recent significant increase in illegal collecting linked with a surge in demand for these plants facilitated by online platforms such as eBay.

Population

Conophytum comptonii is known from many subpopulations, and is locally abundant in suitable habitat. The population size is estimated to exceed 5000 individuals, and is declining.

Population Decreasing trend

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
<i>Conophytum comptonii</i>	Least Concern	Raimondo et al. (2009) N.E.Br.

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Citation

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