

## Plants

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### Taxonomy

**Scientific Name** **Conophytum blandum L.Bolus**

**Higher Classification** Dicotyledons

**Family** AIZOACEAE

### National Status

**Status and Criteria** **Vulnerable B1ab(iii,v)**

**Assessment Date** 2020/02/10

**Assessor(s)** A.J. Young, S.A. Hammer & L. von Staden

**Justification** A range-restricted species to the Northern Cape, South Africa (extent of occurrence 352 km<sup>2</sup>), this species is known from between five and 10 locations, and its habitat is declining as a result of livestock overgrazing. Furthermore, certain subpopulations are declining due to collection for the specialist succulent horticultural trade. It therefore qualifies as Vulnerable under criterion B1.

### Distribution

**Endemism** South African endemic

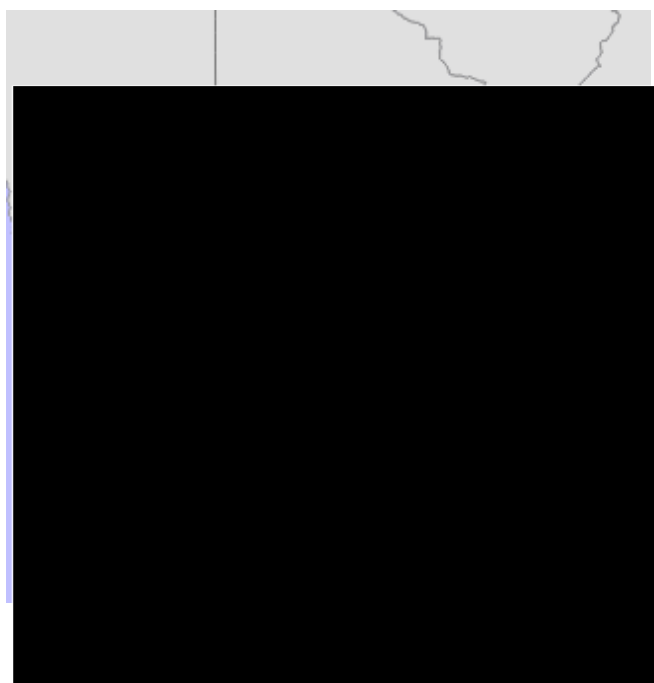
**Provincial distribution** Northern Cape

**Range** North-western Bushmanland between Steinkopf and Pofadder.

### Habitat and Ecology

**Major system** Terrestrial

**Major habitats** Nama Karoo, Succulent Karoo



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**Description** Cracks and fissures of large quartz blocks on arid hills and Bushmanland inselbergs.

## Threats

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Grazing and trampling by livestock is a threat to some subpopulations. Recently, there has been renewed interest in mining of mineral rich inselbergs in the area. There are no known mining or prospecting applications at any of this species' locations, but it is a potential threat. Some localised forms are popular in cultivation and a number of subpopulations are declining due to illegal collection.

## Population

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This species has a limited distribution range, but is very common across several quartz inselbergs, with subpopulations consisting of >5000 individuals. The population is declining due to habitat degradation and illegal collecting.

**Population trend** Decreasing

## Assessment History

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Taxon	Status	Citation/Red assessed Criteria	List version
Conophytum blandum L.Bolus	NT	D2	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Conophytum blandum L.Bolus	Lower Risk	- Near Threatened	Victor (2002)
Conophytum blandum L.Bolus	Rare		Hilton-Taylor (1996)

## Bibliography

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## Citation

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