

African Plants

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Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Conophytum irmae S.A.Hammer & Barnhill
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE

National Status

Status and Criteria	Endangered B1ab(v)+2ab(v)
Assessment Date	2020/02/10
Assessor(s)	A.J. Young, D. Raimondo & P.C.V. Van Wyk

Justification A range-restricted species from the Richtersveld region of South Africa, it is extremely localized occurring in an area of 6 km². It has an extent of occurrence (EOO) and an area of occupancy (AOO) in accordance with the IUCN guidelines of 16 km². Known from two threat based locations, it is experiencing ongoing decline as a result of illegal collecting for the specialist succulent horticultural trade. It therefore qualifies as Endangered under Criterion B.

Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
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Provincial distribution Northern Cape
Range Richtersveld near Steinkopf in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system Terrestrial
Major habitats Namaqualand Klipkoppe Shrubland, Anenous Plateau Shrubland
Description Quartz cliff faces, ridges or shallow depressions with quartz rubble.

Threats

This species has recently come under collecting pressure with there being one case of poaching by Chinese intercepted in 2019. With the significant increase in demand for Conophytums coming from Asian countries since March 2019 this species is likely to continue to decline as a result of illegal collecting.

Population

This species is extremely localized to two quartz ridges in a small area south-west of Steinkopf. In this area it is locally abundant, with the population estimated to number more than 2000 mature individuals, however with recent observed poaching the population is now declining.

Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Conophytum irmae S.A.Hammer & Barnhill	Rare	Raimondo et al. (2009)

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National Assessment: Red List of
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