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Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Conophytum khamiesbergense (L.Bolus) Schwantes
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE
Synonyms	Berrisfordia khamiesbergensis L.Bolus

National Status

Status and Criteria	Endangered B1ab(iii,v)+2ab(iii,v)
Assessment Date	2020/02/08
Assessor(s)	A.J. Young, D. Raimondo & L. Jabar
Justification	An endemic to the Namaqualand region of South Africa, this species is a highly localized habitat specialist with an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 73 km ² and an area of occupancy (AOO) of 20 km ² . It is known from five locations and there is ongoing decline as result of illegal collecting and degradation of this species habitat due to livestock overgrazing and trampling. It therefore qualifies as Endangered under criterion B.

Distribution

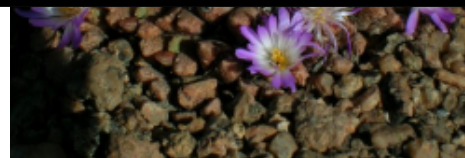
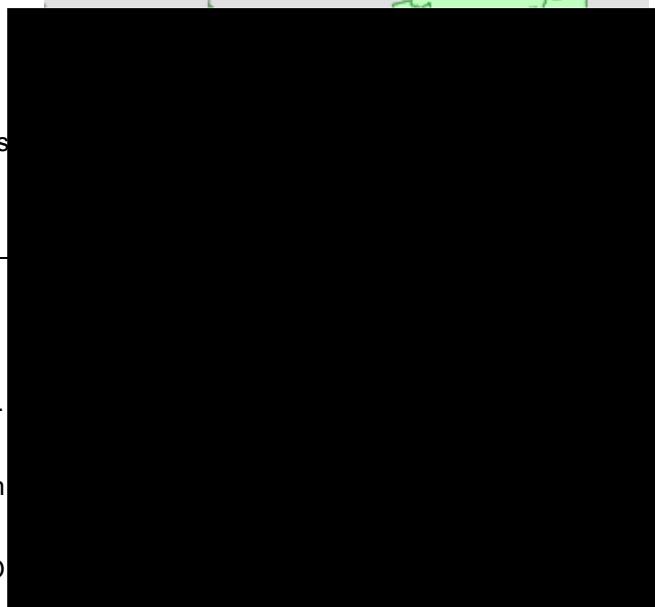
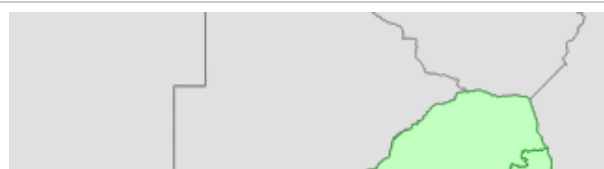
Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Northern Cape
Range	Namaqualand, Kamiesberg in the Northern Cape, South Africa.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Kamiesberg Mountains Shrubland, Namaqualand Granite Renosterveld, Kamiesberg Granite Fynbos
Description	Lichen-covered granite domes at high altitude.

Threats

This taxon is a highly unusual Conophytum popular in cultivation. Collection of plants from



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the wild was a threat in the past, and there is recent evidence of illegal harvest and trade once again taking place. Since March 2019 there has been a marked increase in the demand for *Conophytum* species coming from Asian countries and poaching has escalated significantly. Subpopulations in accessible places near roads are experiencing the most decline. Furthermore large areas of the Kamiesberg are communally owned, and severely overstocked with livestock. Livestock is causing ongoing degradation of its habitat.

Population

This species is a highly localized habitat specialist. It is known from five locations where it is locally abundant in suitable habitat. The population is estimated to exceed 5000 plants but is declining.

Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
<i>Conophytum khamiesbergense</i> (L.Bolus) Schwantes	VU D2	Raimondo et al. (2009)
<i>Conophytum khamiesbergense</i> (L.Bolus) Schwantes	Lower Risk - Least Concern	Victor (2002)
<i>Berrisfordia khamiesbergensis</i> L.Bolus	Indeterminate	Hall et al. (1980)

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Citation

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Conophytum khamiesbergense (L.Bolus)
Schwantes. National Assessment: Red List of
South African Plants version 2020.1.
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