

African Plants

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Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Conophytum tantillum N.E.Br. subsp. amicorum S.A.Hammer & Barnhill
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	AIZOACEAE

National Status

Status and Criteria	Critically Endangered B1ab(v)+2ab(v)
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Assessment Date 2020/02/05

Assessor(s) A.J. Young, P.C.V. Van Wyk & D. Raimondo

Justification Known from a single subpopulation that occurs in Namaqualand South Africa. It is restricted to a tiny area of less than 1 km². It has an extent of occurrence (EOO) and area of occurrence (AOO) in accordance with the IUCN guidelines of 4 km². This population is estimated to consist of less than 1000 individuals. It is currently declining as a result of illegal succulent plant trade with a significant increase in illegal collecting taking place since March 2019 as a result of demand for Conophytums coming from Asian countries. This taxon



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therefore qualifies
as Critically
Endangered under
criterion B.

Distribution

Endemism South African
endemic
**Provincial
distribution** Northern Cape
Range Steinkopf.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system Terrestrial
**Major
habitats** Namaqualand
Blomveld
Description Vertical cliff faces,
often in cracks and
crevices on large
quartz blocks.

Threats

This taxon occurs in an accessible site close to a town. The rangelands surrounding this town are communally owned, and is being severely degraded due to overstocking. This taxon has recently come under illegal poaching pressure with 20 plants obtained from Chinese poachers in 2019. Many more plants are likely to have been poached and the pressure to supply the large demand for Conophytums is ongoing. Illegal succulent harvesting is a severe threat, as the population is accessible from a nearby road. The population is very small and localized, and therefore any loss of individuals from the wild is rapidly increasing this species risk of extinction.

Population

This taxon is known from a single, small localized subpopulation of less than 1000 mature individuals. There is ongoing decline of population due to illegal collection.

**Population
trend** Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Conophytum tantillum N.E.Br. subsp. amicorum	VU D1+2	2017.1

S.A.Hammer
& Barnhill
Conophytum **Least** Raimondo et
tantillum **Concernal.** (2009)
N.E.Br.
subsp.
amicorum
S.A.Hammer
& Barnhill

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Hammer, S. 2002. Dumpling and his wife: New view of the genus Conophytum. EAE Creative Colour, Norwich.

Hammer, S. and Barnhill, C. 1997. Odes part two: descriptions of new Mesembryanthea. Bradleya 15:42-47.

Raimondo, D., von Staden, L., Foden, W., Victor, J.E., Helme, N.A., Turner, R.C., Kamundi, D.A. and Manyama, P.A. 2009. Red List of South African Plants. Strelitzia 25. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

Citation

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