

## African Plants

[Red List statistics methodology](#)

[Summary of recent changes Glossary](#)  
[Guidelines for EIAs](#)

[National Red List categories](#)

[Assessment](#)

### Browse

[Home](#) >> [Genera: C](#) >> [Genus: Conophytum](#)

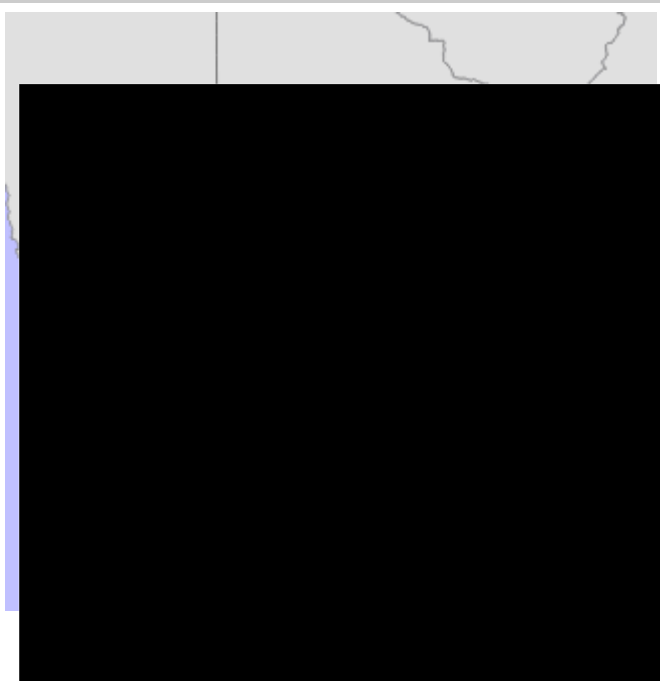
- [Genera: A](#)
- [Genera: B](#)
- [Genera: C](#)
- [Genera: D](#)
- [Genera: E](#)
- [Genera: F](#)
- [Genera: G](#)
- [Genera: H](#)
- [Genera: I](#)
- [Genera: J](#)
- [Genera: K](#)
- [Genera: L](#)
- [Genera: M](#)
- [Genera: N](#)
- [Genera: O](#)
- [Genera: P](#)
- [Genera: Q](#)
- [Genera: R](#)
- [Genera: S](#)
- [Genera: T](#)
- [Genera: U](#)
- [Genera: V](#)
- [Genera: W](#)
- [Genera: X](#)
- [Genera: Y](#)
- [Genera: Z](#)

### Taxonomy

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Conophytum wettsteinii (A.Berger) N.E.Br.</b>
<b>Higher Classification</b>	Dicotyledons
<b>Family</b>	AIZOACEAE
<b>Synonyms</b>	Conophytum brevipes L.Bolus, Conophytum circumpunctatum Schick & Tischer

### National Status

<b>Status and Criteria</b>	<b>Least Concern</b>
<b>Assessment Date</b>	2020/02/05
<b>Assessor(s)</b>	A.J. Young, P.C.V. Van Wyk & D. Raimondo
<b>Justification</b>	This species is endemic to Richtersveld region of the Northern Cape South Africa, it has an extent of occurrence (EOO) of 3006 km <sup>2</sup> . In comparison to other Conophytums this species is common, it has been recorded from more than 25 locations and is able to survive in degraded habitats. Harvesting for the illegal succulent trade began to impact this species in early 2019. So far any decline from illegal collecting do not exceed 10% of the population. Monitoring of volumes of illegal



© A.J. Young

Search for images of *Conophytum wettsteinii* on [iNaturalist](#)

trade and its impact on this species is required.

## Distribution

---

<b>Endemism</b>	South African endemic
<b>Provincial distribution</b>	Northern Cape
<b>Range</b>	Richtersveld, Eksteenfontein to Steinkopf.

## Habitat and Ecology

---

<b>Major system</b>	Terrestrial
<b>Major habitats</b>	Succulent Karoo
<b>Description</b>	Shaded cracks and crevices in gneiss or granite outcrops.

## Threats

---

While this species does not appear to be impacted by overgrazing, which is the main threat to plant species across most of the Richtersveld. It is fairly common around Steinkopf, a town surrounded by heavily overstocked communal rangelands. Since March 2019 this species has been targeted to supply the growing demand for Conophytums coming from Asian countries.

## Population

---

This species typically occur as widely scattered individuals, but it is also sometimes locally common. The population is estimated to number at least 2000 mature individuals and is not declining.

**Population trend** Stable

## Assessment History

---

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

## Bibliography

---

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

Hammer, S.A. 1993. The genus *Conophytum*: A conograph. Succulent Plant Publications, Pretoria.

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.

Snijman, D.A. 2013. Plants of the Greater Cape Floristic Region 2: The extra Cape flora. *Strelitzia* 30. South African National Biodiversity Institute, Pretoria.

## Citation

---

Young, A.J., Van Wyk, P.C.V. & Raimondo, D. 2020. *Conophytum wettsteinii* (A.Berger) N.E.Br. National Assessment: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on 2021/09/21

 [Comment on this assessment](#)

(c) South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) 2010-12.