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Red List of South African Plants

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Cape Clivia

Taxonomy

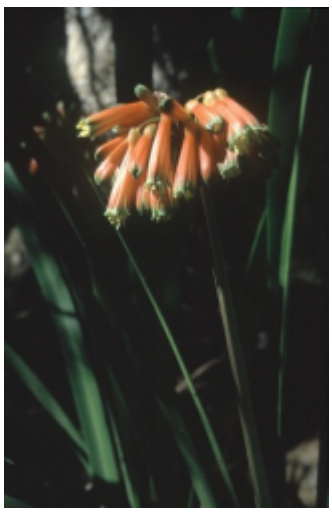
Scientific Name	**Clivia nobilis Lindl.**
Higher Classification	Monocotyledons
Family	AMARYLLIDACEAE
Common Names	Boslelie (a), Bush Lily (e), Cape Clivia (e), Eastern Cape Clivia (e), Red Bush Lily (e), Umayime (z)

National Status

Status and Criteria	**Vulnerable A2cd**
Assessment Date	2008/01/15
Assessor(s)	V.L. Williams, D. Raimondo, N.R. Crouch, A.B. Cunningham, C.R. Scott-Shaw, M. Lötter, A.M. Ngwenya, P. Rourke, D.A. Snijman, A.P. Dold & J.E. Victor
Justification	The population has declined at least 30% in the last 120 years (generation length 40 years) due to harvesting for the medicinal plant trade, horticultural acquisitions and some habitat destruction caused by coastal development.

Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Eastern Cape
Range	Suurberg north of



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Paterson and Bushman's River mouth to Qora River mouth.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Southern Coastal Forest, Scarp Forest, Southern Mistbelt Forest, Hamburg Dune Thicket, Umtiza Forest Thicket, Nanaga Savanna Thicket, Kasouga Dune Thicket, Buffels Valley Thicket, Albany Valley Thicket, Albany Mesic Thicket
Description	Coastal and inland forest patches below 600 m.

Threats

Threatened by harvesting for the traditional medicine trade. Traders do not distinguish between Clivia species and all species are therefore at risk of over-exploitation. The primary factor determining which species is sold on a particular day in the market relates to where a harvester has managed to find subpopulations to exploit. Five Clivia species found in South Africa are harvested for traditional medicine and have been recorded in all the major medicinal plant markets in South Africa. Clivia miniata and C. nobilis were the most frequently referenced species in the literature, but C. miniata, C. caulescens and C. gardenii are the most prevalent in the markets. The whole plant (except for the flowers) is used and the tops of the leaves are typically cut off, thereby making it difficult to distinguish between the species. Cunningham (1988) estimated that 397 bags (50kg-size) were sold annually by 54 traders, which probably represented a quarter of the total quantity sold in the region at the time. The species was classed as 'rare and vulnerable' [illegible] i.e. a species with a relatively small population that is vulnerable to over-exploitation if exploitation for medicinal purposes continues (Cunningham 1988). In 2001, 26% of the Faraday Market traders in Johannesburg sold Clivia spp. (ranked thirteenth in order of

prevalence), and the volume present in the market at the time of the two week survey was equivalent to 11 bags (50 kg-size) (Williams 2003). The volume purchased annually by traders in Faraday was conservatively estimated to be at least 200 bags. However, inconsistent availability of the species has been noted by the traders. One quarter of the Faraday traders selling clivias also noted that it was scarce and increasingly difficult to obtain. The prevalence and popularity of the genus in other markets is reportedly high. Assessments for Mpumalanga (Mander 1997) and KwaZulu-Natal (Mander 1998) ranked Clivia spp. as being in the top 10 of the most frequently demanded plants. On the Witwatersrand in 1994, the genus was sold by 66% of the muthi shops and was also ranked thirteenth out of more than 450 species in terms of its occurrence in the shops (Williams et al. 2000, Williams 2007). There seems to be a preference by traders for younger and smaller individuals. Clivia nobilis is sold more in the Eastern Cape closer to its source and is less prevalent in other markets, although plants cited as having been harvested within its range occasionally find their way to the Johannesburg markets (V.L. Williams, pers. obs.) The whole plant of Clivia nobilis is dug up, hence harvesting is very destructive. However, the species is found in some inaccessible areas and so is protected to a limited extent. The species is not attractive to specialist horticultural collectors because it is the slowest growing of all the Clivia species. Hence main threats are muthi collections and habitat destruction/degradation.

Population

Population trend Decreasing

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Clivia nobilis Lindl.	**VU** A2cd	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Clivia nobilis Lindl.	**Lower Risk - Least Concern**	Victor (2002)
Clivia nobilis Lindl.	**Not Threatened**	Hilton-Taylor (1996)
Clivia	**Rare**	Hall et al.

nobilis Lindl.	(1980)

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Citation

Williams, V.L., Raimondo, D., Crouch, N.R., Cunningham, A.B., Scott-Shaw, C.R., Lötter, M., Ngwenya, A.M., Rourke, P., Snijman, D.A., Dold, A.P. & Victor, J.E. 2008. Clivia nobilis Lindl. National Assessment: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on 2021/11/16

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