

## African Plants

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### Taxonomy

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Haworthiopsis attenuata (Haw.) G.D.Rowley</b>
<b>Higher Classification</b>	Monocotyledons
<b>Family</b>	ASPHODELACEAE

### National Status

<b>Status and Criteria</b>	<b>Vulnerable A2cd+4cd</b>
<b>Assessment Date</b>	2014/03/14
<b>Assessor(s)</b>	V.L. Williams, P.A. Manyama, N.A. Helme, D.A. Kamundi, A.P. Dold & L. von Staden

**Justification** A slow growing, long-lived, range-restricted species (EOO 19 322 km<sup>2</sup>), that has already declined by at least 30% in the past two generations (generation length 50 years) due to unsustainable exploitation for the traditional medicinal and horticultural trade, as well as habitat loss. With these threats anticipated to continue, it is estimated that the population will decline by at least another 20% within the next 10 years.

### Distribution

<b>Endemism</b>	South African endemic
<b>Provincial distribution</b>	Eastern Cape
<b>Range</b>	Patensie to the Mbashe River.



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## Habitat and Ecology

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<b>Major system</b>	Terrestrial
<b>Major habitats</b>	Eastern Valley Bushveld, Sundays Valley Thicket, Motherwell Karroid Thicket, Fish Valley Thicket, Doubledrift Karroid Thicket, Buffels Mesic Thicket, Albany Valley Thicket
<b>Description</b>	Karroid scrub, clearings in valley bushveld and steep cliffs.

## Threats

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The main threats to *Haworthiopsis attenuata* are: medicinal plant harvesting, habitat destruction, and collection of mature individuals from the wild by succulent collectors. *Haworthiopsis attenuata* is an intelezi plant that is traded heavily - to the extent that it has been reported by traders (in the King Williams' Town market) as becoming increasingly difficult to find (A.P. Dold pers. comm. 2008). Cocks (1996) noted that *H. attenuata* was an ingredient in almost every prescription she recorded in Xhosa chemists in King William's Town and Peddie. There is no doubt that *H. attenuata* is a much sought after plant. Dold and Cocks (2002) estimated at least 3400 kg of dry material were sold per year for the six markets in the Eastern Cape survey area, although it is often difficult to distinguish *H. attenuata* from *Gasteria bicolor* in material found in markets (A.P. Dold pers. comm. 2008). The species was noted to be heavily traded and unsustainably harvested at the study sites (Dold and Cocks 2002). In traditional medicine markets outside of the Eastern Cape, *Haworthia limifolia* is the preferred species, however when it is in short supply it is substituted with other species including *H. attenuata* (Smith et al 1997, Crouch et al 1999). Around Coega and Redhouse in the Port Elizabeth district, remaining subpopulations are threatened by ongoing habitat loss to urban and industrial expansion. Medicinal harvesting pressure is particularly high around Ndayana and Peddie, with subpopulations in the Peddie area now completely extirpated. Subpopulations around Addo and Hankey represent unique forms, and easily accessible subpopulations are being cleared for horticultural trade.

## Population

It is estimated to have been at least a 30% population reduction in the past 100 years due to collecting and habitat loss. A further 20% reduction is anticipated in the next 10 years due to planned further land clearing for industry and housing, as well as persistent medicinal plant harvesting. The plants are very long lived and their restricted habitat and distribution is further threat to their persistence.

**Population trend** Decreasing

## Notes

This assessment includes *Haworthia glabrata*, which was long known only in cultivation (Bayer 1982), until it was discovered in the wild in 1991. It was recently included as a variety of *H. attenuata* (Bayer and Manning 2012), and extends the range of *H. attenuata* as described by Bayer in Manning and Goldblatt (2012) by about 100 km further east, from the Kei River to the Mbashe River.

## Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
Haworthiopsis attenuata (Haw.) G.D.Rowley	<b>VU</b> A2cd+4cd	2014.1
Haworthia glabrata (Salm-Dyck) Baker	<b>VU</b> D1+2	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Haworthia attenuata (Haw.) Haw. var. radula (Jacq.) M.B.Bayer	<b>Least Concern</b>	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Haworthia attenuata (Haw.) Haw. var. attenuata	<b>EN</b> A4acd	Raimondo et al. (2009)

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Bayer, M.B. and Manning, J.C. 2012 (Updated online 2013). The *Haworthia* nomenclator: A list of accepted species with some

guidelines for infraspecific names.  
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Cocks, M.L. 1996. Towards an understanding of amaYeza yesiXhosa Stores (African Chemists). Unpublished M.A. Thesis, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

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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.

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## Citation

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