

Red List of South

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African Plants

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Taxonomy

Scientific Name

Haworthiopsis attenuata (Haw.) G.D.Rowley

Higher Monocotyledons

Classification

Family ASPHODELACEAE

National Status

Status and Criteria

Assessment 2014/03/14

Date

Assessor(s) V.L. Williams, P.A.

Manyama, N.A. Helme, D.A. Kamundi, A.P. Dold & L. von

Vulnerable A2cd+4cd

Staden

Justification A slow growing, long-

lived, range-restricted species (EOO 19 322 km²), 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

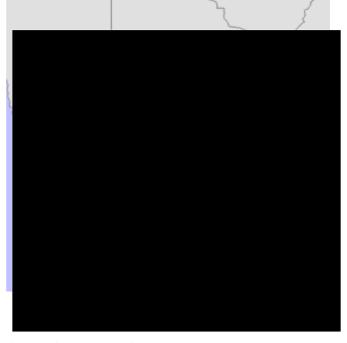
years.

Distribution

Endemism Provincial distribution Range

South African endemic Eastern Cape

Patensie to the Mbashe River.



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Habitat and Ecology

Major system Terrestrial

MajorEastern ValleyhabitatsBushveld, Sundays

Valley Thicket, Motherwell Karroid Thicket, Fish Valley Thicket, Doubledrift Karroid Thicket, Buffels Mesic Thicket, Albany Valley Thicket

Description Karroid scrub,

clearings in valley bushveld and steep

cliffs.

Threats

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 Ndwayana 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 Decreasing trend

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.)		2014.1 I
G.D.Rowley Haworthia glabrata (Salm-Dyck)	VU D1+2	Raimondo et al. (2009)
Baker Haworthia attenuata (Haw.) Haw. var. radula	Least Concern	Raimondo et al. (2009)
(Jacq.) M.B.Bayer Haworthia attenuata (Haw.) Haw. var. attenuata	EN A4acc	lRaimondo et al. (2009)

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Citation

Williams, V.L., Manyama, P.A., Helme, N.A., Kamundi, D.A., Dold, A.P. & von Staden, L. 2014. Haworthiopsis attenuata (Haw.) G.D.Rowley. National Assessment: Red List of South African Plants version 2020.1. Accessed on 2021/11/23

□ Comment on this assessment

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