

African Plants

[Red List statistics methodology](#)

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

[National Red List categories](#)

[Assessment](#)

Browse

- [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](#)

[Home](#) >> [Genera: P](#) >> [Genus: Pelargonium](#)

Rabassam

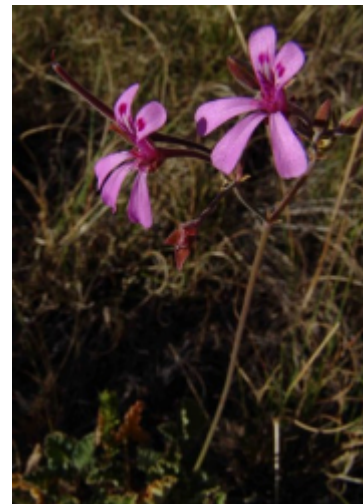
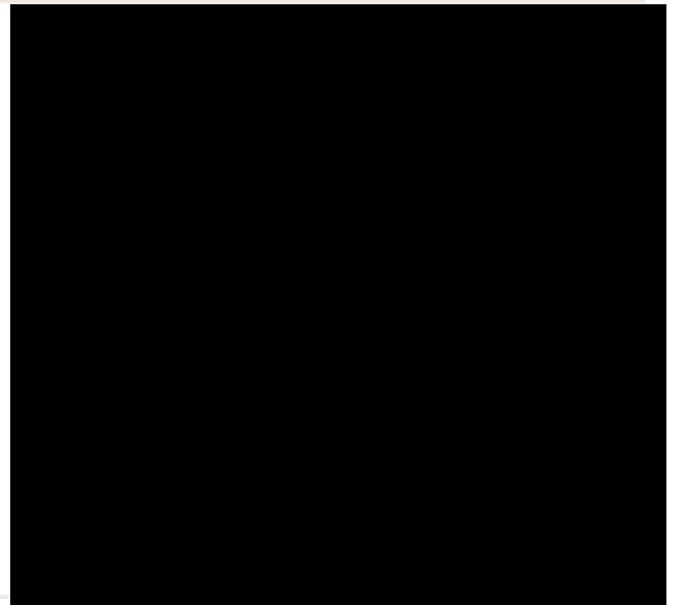
Taxonomy

Scientific Name	Pelargonium reniforme Curtis
Higher Classification	Dicotyledons
Family	GERANIACEAE
Common Names	Rabassam (e), Rooirabas (a), Rooirabassam (a)

National Status

Status and Criteria	Near Threatened A4bd
Assessment Date	2012/05/15
Assessor(s)	D. Raimondo, J.E. Victor, A.P. Dold & A. de Castro

Justification This slow growing geophytic taxon (generation length 20 years) is undergoing ongoing decline as a result of medicinal harvesting. Although the more widespread *P. sidoides* is predominantly targeted by pharmaceutical companies, *P. reniforme* is often harvested along with *P. sidoides* where the two species occur sympatrically in the Eastern Cape. Between 10 and 15% of the population is suspected to have been lost since 2002 due to widespread overharvesting. The demand for *Pelargonium*



© J.H. Vlok/A.L. Schutte-Vlok

Search for images of *Pelargonium reniforme* on [iNaturalist](#)

- **Genera:**
Z

sidoides and related species is increasing and we suspect a minimum of a further 10% of the population of *P. reniforme* will be lost in the next 20 years.

Distribution

Endemism	South African endemic
Provincial distribution	Eastern Cape, Western Cape
Range	Knysna to Umtata.

Habitat and Ecology

Major system	Terrestrial
Major habitats	Albany Thicket, Fynbos, Nama Karoo
Description	Dry flats and open grassland and grassy fynbos.

Threats

Pelargonium reniforme is harvested for local use in traditional medicine. In addition, it is also often harvested in large volumes for large-scale commercial herbal medicine production, as it is vegetatively virtually identical to *Pelargonium sidoides*, which is a widespread and common species primarily targeted for international trade. Local extirpations and widespread decline have been observed around Grahamstown, Peddie and Alice between 2002 and 2012, and it is suspected that the population has been reduced by between 20 and 30%.

Population

Population trend	Decreasing
-------------------------	------------

Assessment History

Taxon assessed	Status and Criteria	Citation/Red List version
<i>Pelargonium reniforme</i> Curtis subsp. <i>reniforme</i>	Data Deficient	Raimondo et al. (2009)
<i>Pelargonium reniforme</i> Curtis subsp. <i>velutinum</i> (Eckl. &	Least Concern	Raimondo et al. (2009)

Zeyh.)
Dreyer

Bibliography

Goldblatt, P. and Manning, J.C.
2000. Cape Plants: A conspectus of
the Cape Flora of South Africa.
Strelitzia 9. National Botanical
Institute, Cape Town.

Motjotji, L. 2011. Towards
Sustainability of Harvesting the
Medicinal Plant *Pelargonium
sidoides* (Geraniaceae).
Unpublished M.Sc., University of
the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

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.

Vlok, J. and Schutte-Vlok, A.L.
2010. Plants of the Klein Karoo.
Umdaus Press, Hatfield.

Citation

Raimondo, D., Victor, J.E., Dold,
A.P. & de Castro, A. 2012.
Pelargonium reniforme Curtis.
National Assessment: Red List of
South African Plants version
2020.1. Accessed on 2022/01/18

 [Comment on this assessment](#)

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