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Species of the Day: Pachypodium windsorii

Pachypodium windsorii has not yet been evaluated for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species[™], however, it has provisionally been assessed as 'Endangered'. It is a succulent plant found in the extreme north of Madagascar. For a long time, it was only known to occur in the Windsor Castle massif but, in 2005, two new subpopulations were discovered at the Beantely massif and Amboaizamikono massif.

This species grows either in forest or wooded grassland, but always on calcareous rock outcrops or cliffs. The area has been severely impacted by forest logging and fire, which have considerably reduced the primary vegetation to small patches of secondary dry forest amidst a landscape dominated by grassland or wooded grassland. Exploitation of these fragments of forest for timber and fuel continues.

The only conservation measure currently being undertaken for *Pachypodium windsorii* is the *ex-situ* (i.e. conservation outside their natural habitat) transplantation of seedlings to the Tsimbazaza Botanical Garden, Antananarivo, Madagascar.









