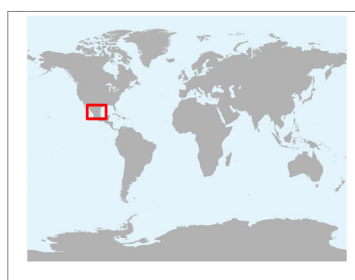




© Carlos Gómez-Hinostrosa

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

www.iucnredlist.org
www.iucn.org/cssg
 Help Save Species
www.arkive.org



Species of the Day: *Opuntia chaffeyi*

Opuntia chaffeyi is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This small branching cactus is restricted to a small area in the state of Zacatecas, Mexico, where it is only known from three localities, each comprising no more than five plants.

With a population potentially numbering no more than 15 mature plants, *Opuntia chaffeyi* is extremely close to becoming extinct. Habitat destruction due to cattle over-pasturing is the major threat, while parts of this species are also harvested for medicinal purposes, as an anti-inflammatory. There is also concern that the area could be impacted upon by agricultural expansion if boreholes are sunk to obtain water for irrigation.

Although *Opuntia chaffeyi* is listed on Appendix II of CITES, which prohibits international trade without a permit, further conservation measures are clearly necessary. Probably the highest priority is the creation of protected areas, which would also benefit other threatened species with which this rare cactus grows.



Species of the Day
is sponsored by



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership: IUCN (including the Species Survival Commission), BirdLife International, Conservation International, NatureServe and Zoological Society of London.