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## Species of the Day: Turbinicarpus alonsoi

<u>Turbinicarpus alonsoi</u> is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species<sup>™</sup>. This small, attractive cactus occurs in a single location of less than 10 km² in the State of Querétaro, Mexico, and has a current estimated population size of less than 5,000 individuals.

This species' habitat has become widely known to collectors, and since its discovery in 1996, the population has declined by more than 50 percent due to illegal over-collecting. Its highly restricted range also puts the cactus at increased risk of being wiped out by any chance events.

Although *Turbinicarpus alonsoi* is listed on Appendix I of CITES, which prohibits all international trade in the species, the laws governing imports in the countries of destination need to be much more strongly enforced. This rare cactus is currently propagated in Europe from illegally collected plants.









