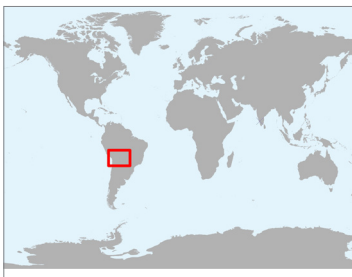




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Species of the Day: *Arachis rigonii*

Arachis rigonii is a wild relative of the cultivated peanut and is listed as 'Critically Endangered' in the 'Red List Book of Crop Wild Relatives of Bolivia'. Endemic to Bolivia, its local common name is given as *Manicillo rigoni* – 'manicillo' indicates the smaller size of its fruit compared to cultivated varieties ('mani' is the Spanish word for peanut), and 'rigoni' refers to the agronomist V.A. Rigoni who first studied it.

Unfortunately, due to habitat fragmentation and loss, this species currently survives as a single, fragmented population in a heavily built-up area in the city of Santa Cruz, occupying an area of less than 10 km² at an altitude of 400 m.

Given its critical conservation status, further research is urgently needed to locate other populations of this species in the area surrounding Santa Cruz. Action needs to be taken to target protection of this species in its natural habitat. Other conservation measures include setting up a seed collection in gene banks and in botanical gardens, as well as establishing herbaria collections (dried and preserved specimens).

Geographical range

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