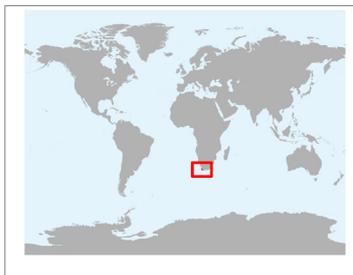




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Geographical range

Species of the Day: *Cadiscus aquaticus*

Cadiscus aquaticus is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This succulent green wetland plant, with spectacular white flowers and yellow stamens, is only known from the Western Cape in South Africa, where it grows on shale in a few spring pools. The reproduction strategy of this species is not well known, but the plant is rare and does not spread easily.

Livestock grazing and trampling are likely to have led to the loss of *Cadiscus aquaticus* in many of its historic localities. Infilling of wetlands and mechanical damage by heavy machinery are considered to be severe ongoing threats. Other less severe threats are invasion by alien grasses caused by the dumping of cattle feed in dry pools during the summer, and eutrophication caused by run-off from fertilizers used on surrounding ploughed lands.

Site management plans and law and policy actions to protect the habitat of *Cadiscus aquaticus* are urgently needed. More research on the species' ecology is also necessary in order to carry out habitat restoration plans.

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