

Acritodon nephophilus H. Rob.

Status: **Critically Endangered (CR)** A1c

Class: Bryopsida

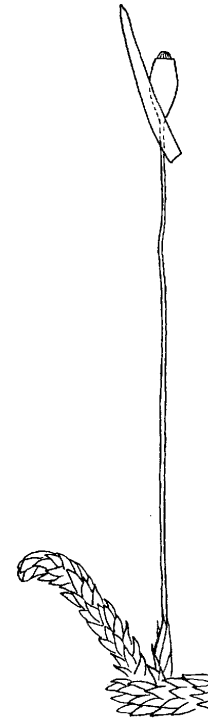
Order: Hypnales

Family: Sematophyllaceae

Description and Biology: Golden brown plant forming mats, pinnately branched with suberect branches. The leaves frequently pointing in one single direction, oblong-ovate, about 1 to 1.5 mm long. Sporophytes apparently maturing in late summer.

Distribution and Habitat: Endemic, known only from two collections, including the type from southern Mexico where it was reported as an epiphyte in cloud forest, on tree branches and trunk of *Clethra*. Type locality: Mexico. Oaxaca: Sierra Juarez above Valle Nacional, Route 175, cloud forest near km 96. Other sites are: Oaxaca: Slopes at the pass above Llano de las Flores, on the road between Ixtlán de Juárez and Tuxtepec. Trunk of *Clethra*, 2743 m a.s.l.

History and Outlook: A specimen collected in Sierra de Juárez, served as the basis for the original description in 1964; a second specimen from the same area was obtained two years later, in 1966, and apparently has not been collected since then. The general area in Sierra de Juárez has been continuously disturbed by timber-cutting, road construction, and cattle raising. This area is also known for its numerous species that occupy a steep gradient from high altitude pine woodlands in Oaxaca to tropical lowland forests in Veracruz. The highest part of Sierra de Juárez is likely candidate for protection on floristic and phytogeographic basis, but this writer has not been there in the last 15 years and cannot offer further information on the current situation of the vegetation and general environment where *A. nephophilus* grows.



Acritodon nephophilus H. Rob.
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Robinson and the Journal
Bryologist.

References: Robinson, H. 1964. New taxa and new records of bryophytes from México and Central America. *Bryologist* 67: 446-458 (figures 28-32).

Sharp, A.J., Crum, H.A. & Eckel, P.M. (eds.). 1994. The moss flora of Mexico. *Mem. New York Bot. Gard.* 69: 1-1113 (figure 730 a-f).

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Illustration: in Robinson, H. 1964.

Last updated: March 2001