

Caudalejeunea grolleana Gradst.

Status: **Endangered (EN)** B1,2cd

Class: Hepaticae

Order: Jungermanniales

Family: Lejeuneaceae

Description and Biology: Tiny epiphytic plants, growing in small, dull green mats on bark. Stems are up to 1 cm long and 1-1.5 mm wide, irregularly branched. Leaves are long ovate with a rounded apex and a small ventral lobule with 1-3 short teeth. Underleaves are small, broadly ovate and with a truncate apex. The perianth is on a short lateral branch, without innovations, and has four sharp keels with rudimentary wings. The species is autoicous and (immature) sporophytes have been observed. Dispersal by spores is likely to occur. Vegetative reproduction, commonly by gemmae in *Caudalejeunea*, is unknown in *C. grolleana*.

Distribution and Habitat: *Caudalejeunea grolleana* is endemic to Madagascar where it is known from two localities: Nossi-Bé Island (leg. M. Onraedt, 1971) and Antsohy forest (leg. G. Cremers, 1973). The species grows on bark in lowland rain forest and is only known from undisturbed habitats.

History and Outlook: *Caudalejeunea grolleana* was first discovered about 25 years ago and is an isolated taxon. Within *Caudalejeunea* it constitutes a separate, monotypic subgenus. The status of the lowland rain forests of Madagascar, the habitat of *Caudalejeunea grolleana*, is very critical. Less than 15% of the original area is remaining and almost every forest area, including the reserves, is threatened by destruction. Even though the two localities known are in forest reserves, the species should be considered endangered.

References:

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Author of this red data sheet: Prof. Dr. S. R. Gradstein, Systematisch-Geobotanisches Institut, University of Göttingen, Untere Karspüle 2, 73073 Göttingen, GERMANY

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