

Diplocolea sikkimensis Amak.

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

Class: Hepaticae

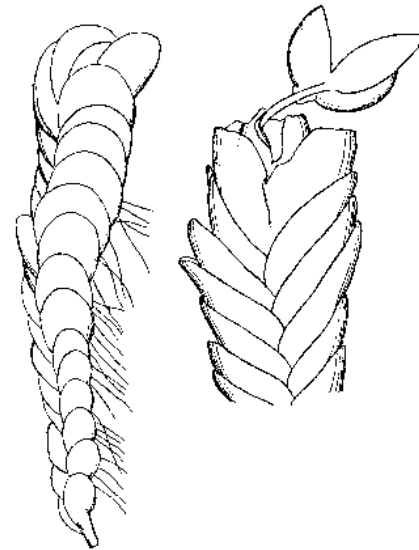
Order: Jungermanniales

Family: Jungermanniaceae

Description and Biology: Very small leafy hepatic (only 5 mm long) growing in mats. Leaves ovate, concave, imbricate, obliquely inserted; underleaves absent. Female inflorescence terminal, with double perianth.

Distribution and Habitat: Known only from three areas: Sikkim: Jongri and Nepal: Milingo, Langtang; growing on earth and trunks in alpine habitats (3000—4000 m). Until now collected only by three non-bryologists (Hara, Togashi, Zimmerman) and one muscologist (Higuchi), no more information available about habitat requirements.

History and Outlook: Described by Amakawa (1962, 1963) on the basis of Sikkim collections made in 1960), lately reported only twice from Nepal (collections from 1952, 1988). The conservation of this species is important because of very peculiar morphologic characteristic (double perianth, known only in this species and high arctic *Cryptocolea imbricata*). Number of collections since 1950: only 4 times: 1952, 1960 (2x), 1988



Diplocolea sikkimensis Amak. Illustration by T. Amakawa.

References: Amakawa, T. 1962: A new genus *Diplocolea* (Hepaticae) from eastern Himalaya.— *J. Jap. Bot.* 37: 274.

Amakawa, T. 1963: New or little known Asiatic species of the family Jungermanniaceae. I.— *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 26: 20--26, fig. 1 a-s.

Hattori, S. 1968: Resultats des expeditions scientifiques genevoises au Nepal en 1952 et 1954 (partie botanique). 20. Hepaticae.— *Candollea* 23: 275-285.

Mizutani M. & al. 1995. Hepatics from Nepal collected by the botanical expeditions of the National Science Museum, Tokyo in 1988. 1. Jungermanniales. — In: Watanabe M. & Hagiwara H., *Cryptogams of the Himalayas* 3. Nepal and Pakistan, p. 127-141, Tsukuba.

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