

***Haesselia roraimensis*** Grolle & Gradst.

Status: **Vulnerable (VU) D2**

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Class: Jungermanniopsida

Order: Jungermanniales

Family: Cephaloziaceae

**Description and Biology:** *Haesselia roraimensis* is a glossy brownish leafy liverwort with ascending growth and shoots up to 2-3 cm long. The plants are sparse and irregularly branched, with undivided, convex and densely imbricate leaves. The polygonal cells are very large, 60-100 µm. Underleaves are lacking. A long cylindrical perianth, trigonous in the upper half, arises principally on main stems. Mature sporophytes are unknown and vegetative reproduction is lacking.

**Distribution and Habitat:** Known only from the Guayana Highland, at the north slope of Mt. Roraima (Guyana: Upper Mazaruni District), at 500-1600 m, where it was collected five times during a botanical expedition in 1985. *Haesselia roraimensis* was found in periodically flooded, riverine forests and in dense submontane „mossy“ forests, where it grows on rotten logs and dead wood, often in extensive mats, occasionally also on trunk bases and roots.

**History and Outlook:** *Haesselia roraimensis* is only known from one locality, where it was collected at one occasion five times, which means that this species meets the IUCN criteria for Vulnerable (VU) D2.

**References:**

Gradstein, S. R. 1992. The vanishing tropical rain forest as an environment for bryophytes and lichens. Pp. 234-258 In Bates, J. W. and Farmer, A. M. (Eds.) Bryophytes and Lichens in a Changing Environment. Clarendon Press, Oxford.

Grolle, R. & S. R. Gradstein, 1988. *Haesselia*, a new genus of Cephaloziaceae (Hepaticae) from Mt. Roraima, Guyana. *J. Hattori Bot. Lab.* 64: 327-334.

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