

***Hypnodontopsis apiculata*** Z. Iwats. & Nog.

Status: **Vulnerable (VU)** B1,2ce

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Class: Bryopsida

Order: Orthotrichales

Family: Rhachitheciaceae

**Distribution and Habitat:** Endemic to Japan (Honshu and Kyushu). Less than ten localities are known. It has disappeared from at least one of these (the type locality in Kyushu) by cutting of host trees. Most of the other localities have only small colonies.

Restricted habitat on the bark of *Cryptomeria japonica* (it may, however seldom, also grow on the bark of pines; *Pinus* sp.) in gardens of Buddhist temples, shinto shrines and old castles.

**History and Outlook:** The population at the type locality has disappeared because the host trees have been removed after they been damaged by typhoons. At the remaining sites the growth is threatened by tree removal, most of the sites being very close to human settlements.

At the type locality in Nichinan, Kyushu, it was extinguished by the cutting of host trees. Nevertheless its presence was confirmed in several sites in Shizuoka-ken and Aichi-ken in Honshu, Japan in the 1990ies. Most of these sites are protected forests surrounding temples and shrines.

Threatened by the decline of suitable trees, high level of human exploitation and heavy air pollution.

**References:** Iwatsuki, Z. 1958: Addition to the diagnosis of *Hypnodontopsis apiculata*. *Miscellanea Bryologica et Lichenologica* 18:5. (in Japanese).

Iwatsuki, Z. 1959. The genus *Hypnodontopsis* and its allies. *Bryologist* 60: 299-310.

**Red Data sheet author:** Z. Iwatsuki 2001.

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