

Leptolejeunea tridentata Bischl.

Status: **Critically Endangered (CR)** B1,2c

Class: Jungermanniopsida

Order: Porellales

Family: Lejeuneaceae

Description and Biology: *Leptolejeunea tridentata* is a very small epiphyllous leafy liverwort, sparsely branched, with shoots 2-5 mm long and less than 0,7 mm wide. Leaves are obovate with three large teeth (2-4 cells long and 1-2 cells wide) and the ventral lobule is inflated, 1/3 the leaf length. Leaf cells are polygonal, with trigones and intermediate thickenings. The leaf has one large basal ocellus and a small laminar one. Underleaves are small and remote, bifid, usually with adhesive rhizoid disc. Plants dioicous, perianth inflated, 5-keeled above, the keels extended into short horns. Vegetative reproduction occurs by cladia.

Distribution and Habitat: This species is only known from two localities in South America: 1) the Chocó Department in Colombia, the wettest region of the Neotropics, where it was found as an epiphyll in an old-growth lowland rainforest, at 80 m, and 2) the Pará Department in Brazil, also as epiphyll in várzea forest.

History and Outlook: *Leptolejeunea tridentata* was collected only twice and meets the IUCN criteria for Critically Endangered based on the area of occupancy less than 10 km², severely fragmented existence and the decline in habitat quality. – CR (B1,2c).

References:

- Bischler, H. 1969. Le genre *Leptolejeunea* (Spruce) Steph. en Amerique. Nova Hedwigia 17: 265-462.
- Gradstein, S. R. 1992. Threatened bryophytes of the neotropical rain forest: a status report. Tropical Bryology 6: 83-94.
- Ilkiu-Borges, A.-L. 2000. Lejeuneaceae (Hepaticae) da Estação Científica Ferreira Penna, Caxiuaña, município de Melgaço, Pará. Dissertação de Mestrado em Agronomia, Faculdade de Ciências Agrárias do Pará, Belém, Pará, Brazil.

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