

Nardia huerlimannii Vána et Grolle

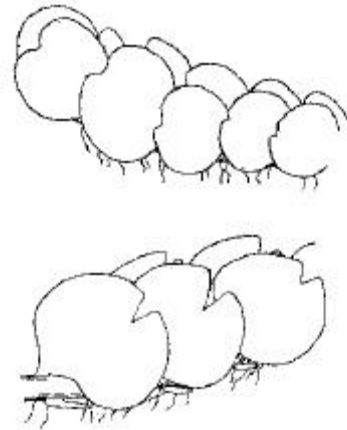
Status: **Vulnerable (VU)** D2

Class: Hepaticopsida

Order: Jungermanniales

Family: Jungermanniaceae

Description and Biology: The plant medium sized, 1—2 cm long, and up to 1.4 mm broad, whitish green, creeping between other bryophytes. Leaves \pm orbicular, emarginate to shortly notched at the tip with rounded incision and broad triangular, mostly obtuse lobes. Leaf margins, especially in the sinus, crenulate by protruding cell walls. Cell size \pm uniform throughout the leaf, 25—40 μ m, isodiametric, stellate due to extremely thickened cell wall trigones. Underleaves present, \pm lanceolate. Sexual organs unknown so far.



Distribution and Habitat: Known only from higher mountains in southern New Caledonia between 580—880 m elev. (see map), growing in humid or mesic forest on living or dead trees.

Nardia huerlimannii Vána et Grolle. Illustration drawn by J. Vána from herbarium material in Z, PRC

History and Outlook: Nothing is known about the history of this species which seems to be endemic in a small area (Montagne des Sources) in the region of ultrabasic soils of New Caledonia, known for a number of endemic plants (e.g. *Strasburgeria robusta*, *Canacomyrca monticola*, *Xeronema moorei* and others). One of the three stations (region of Mt. Dzumac) may be endangered by forestry activities as a road of access has been built nearby, but the author has no precise information as to the track of the road. The other two stations will probably not suffer from human interference. However, as neither sexual nor asexual reproduction has been observed, the future of the species is by no means assured. Number of collections since 1950: 3 collections, all made in 1950/51.

References: Vána J. 1970, Eine neue Lebermoosart aus Neukaledonien. *Oesterr. Bot. Z.* 118: 233—236. (+drawing!)

Red data sheet author: J. Vána

Last updated: January 2001