

## *Orthotrichum scanicum* Grönv.

Status: **Vulnerable (VU)** A1ce

---

Class: Bryopsida

Order: Bryales

Family: Orthotrichaceae

**Description and Biology:** A small tufted pleurocarp moss (though looking superficially like an acrocarp) with obtuse or shortly acute leaves and a  $\pm$  immersed capsule with eight yellow longitudinal striations. Autoecious.

**Distribution and Habitat:** Found in 15 countries, in mountainous areas, under submediterranean and continental climate throughout Europe. However, except for Spain and Portugal, its distribution is based mostly on old reports and it is considered endangered or extinct in several countries. The number of present sub-regions is maybe less than 10. In Portugal two new localities in the same UTM 10 km square have been reported. The Portuguese localities are restricted to a glacial valley from the central part of Serra da Estrela. In the rest of Europe, this taxon has been little reported, and its presence in Spain has been only recently substantiated (Garilleti et al. 1999). It exhibits important populations in central Pyrenees, but outside these mountains, it is only known from a single locality in NW Spain, where it is very scarce. Portuguese localities of Serra da Estrela represent the southern border of *O. scanicum* distribution range in Western Europe. However, unpublished data from recent prospecting of different Mediterranean countries reveal that *O. scanicum* is not as rare as it has been considered to be. It seems to have abundant populations in some mountains of the Mediterranean basin " From a unpublished paper by F. Lara, R. Garilleti, V. Mazimpaka, C. Sérgio & C. Garcia.

It occurs on trunk and branches of conifers as well as broad-leaf deciduous trees. Very rare on rocks (Garilleti et al. 1999).

**History and Outlook:** Threatened by the felling of host trees, by air pollution and tourism action. Protection of the host trees through management agreements and the establishment of areas of minimal intervention would be useful measures for the conservation of this species. Its overall range is declining in Europe.

**References:** ECCB. 1995. *Red Data Book of European Bryophytes*. European Committee for Conservation of Bryophytes (ECCB), Trondheim.

Garilleti, R, F. Lara, B. Albertos & V. Mazimpaka 1999. *Orthotrichum scanicum* Grönv. (*Orthotrichaceae*, Musci) new to the Iberian Peninsula. *Nova Hedwigia* 69(3-4): 429-432.

**Red data sheet author:** Cecilia Sérgio, Francisco Lara & César Garcia

---

**Last updated:** January 2001