

Orthotrichum truncato-dentatum C. Muell.

Status: **Endangered (EN)** B1,2cd

Class: Musci

Order: Bryales

Family: Orthotrichaceae

Description and Biology: Most *Orthotrichum* species are small plants known by the large campanulate hoods covering the young capsules and the erect dry leaves. *O. truncato-dentatum* grows in loose, olive-green tufts up to 2 cm tall. Only 3 species of *Orthotrichum* have been reported from the area concerned. *O. truncato-dentatum* differs to the naked eye from the species *O. araucarieti* in the shorter, less sharply pointed leaves, and from *O. diaphanum* var. *podocarp*i in having all leaf apices green, never yellowish, brown or hyaline. Additional characters to separate the three species can be seen in the microscope (cf Lewinsky 1992).

Distribution and Habitat: *Orthotrichum truncato-dentatum* has a very restricted distribution and has only been found in southern Uruguay (Montevideo) and the neighbouring areas of Argentina (Isla Recreo). It grows only on tree trunks.

History and Outlook: This species was described from a collection made on Isla Recreo, Argentina in 1880. Recently two "new" specimens were located in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden. Both specimens originated from Montevideo and were collected before 1880. No more recent collections seem to have been made for more than 100 years. Both known localities are now heavily urbanised. Since the previous habitats for *O. truncato-dentatum* are as far as we know extinct, it is a question, if and where this species can now be found. Investigations have to be done in the near future in southern Uruguay and the neighbouring areas of Argentina to get an answer if the species has vanished or not.

References

Lewinsky, J. 1992. *Orthotrichum truncato-dentatum*, a Species Known Only from Extinct Habitats. *Bryologist* 95: 218–220.

Red data sheet author:: Dr. Jette Lewinsky.

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