

***Riccia atlantica*** Sérgio & Perold

Status: **Vulnerable (VU)** D2

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Class: Hepaticae

Order: Marchantiales

Family: Ricciaceae

**Description and Biology:** A thallose liverwort. Plants are small, pale green with a shiny crystalline appearance when fresh; distinguished by the inconspicuous hyaline scales, the absence of cilia, enlarged epithelial cells and the spore with a very indistinct ornamentation. Dioecious.

**Distribution and Habitat:** Only in the Madeira Arquipélago (Portugal). Restricted to east Madeira Island and Deserta Grande Island (Doca 1992, Fontinha et al., 2330 MADJ; Doca 1996, I. Silva MADJ 2681). On volcanic deposits near cliffs exposed to the sea, to 100 m.

**History and Outlook:** Increase of rubbish and destruction of microhabitat by the tourism action as well as opening new pathways.

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

Fontinha, S., Sérgio, C. & Silva, L. 1997. Algumas novidades para a brioflora das Ilhas Desertas (Arquipélago da Madeira). In Sérgio, C., Notulae Bryoflorae Macaronesicae IV. 1. *Portug. Acta Biol. Sér. B. Sist.* 17: 265-266.

Sérgio, C. & Fontinha, S. 1994. Natural and semi-natural bryophyte flora of the coastal dry zones of Madeira Island. *Bol. Mus. Mun. Funchal* 46 (254): 95-144.

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