

## *Scapania sphaerifera* Buch & Tuomik.

Status: **Vulnerable (VU)** D2

Class: Hepaticophyta

Order: Jungermanniales

Family Scapaniaceae

**Description and biology.** A leafy liverwort; up to 1.5 cm long and 3 mm wide, yellowish-green to reddish-brown; leaves bilobed, the dorsal lobe smaller than the ventral and closely overlying it; margin from slightly to coarsely dentate with variable teeth those are mostly 1-3 cells long and 2-4 cells at base. Terminal cell elongated, X 1.5-3 as long as wide. Characteristic sphaerical gemmae are composed of 4-8 cells and are brownish. The perianth pluriplicate near mouth the latter is divided into many irregular ciliate-dentate lobes. Sporophytes are unknown. The unique structure of the gemmae (multicellular) has provided a basis for distinguishing this taxon to a separate section of *Scapania*, section *Sphaeriferae* Konstantinova et Potemkin.

**Distribution and habitat:** Only found in Russia. In European part only known from the type locality (Murmansk Oblast) where it unsuccessfully has repeatedly been searched for (Schljakov 1973, Konstantinova 1992). In Asia it was collected at several places in East and South Siberia. *Scapania sphaerifera* has mainly been found on acidic shaded boulder in ravines with high air humidity or on fine earth between boulders in rock fields (kurumy), often associated with *Andreae rupestris*, *Anastrophyllum saxicola*, *Macrodiplrophyllum microdontum*, *Tritomaria quinquedentata*.

**History and outlook:** The species seem to be rare and has today a distribution restricted to East and South Siberia. Several times *Scapania sphaerifera* has been recorded from the Baikalskiy Strict Nature Reserve and in Suntar-Khayata Sanctuary. The only measure that can be suggested, given the present state of knowledge of this species, is to give statutory protection to its known locality.

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