

*Sciaromiopsis sinensis* (Broth.) Broth.

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

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Class: Musci

Order: Hypnobryales

Family: Amblystegiaceae

**Description and Biology:** *Sciaromiopsis sinensis* is a relatively robust aquatic moss which forms wide loose, rigid, somewhat brownish and glossy mats. The stems are up to 12 cm long, freely and irregularly branched. The leaves are ovate-lanceolate with margins plane but distinctly bordered with 7-12 rows of narrow, linear, thickwalled cells in 4-5 layers. The costa is single, stout, extending to tip of the leaf. The lamina cells are shortly oblong or linear-rhomboidal and thick-walled. Basal cells have a well-developed hyaline or yellowish-brown alar region forming decurrencies. Sporophytes are unknown.

**Distribution and Habitat:** *Sciaromiopsis* is China (Sichuan, Daliang-shan at Yanyuan; Lungdschuan-shan at Huili and Yunnan, Lidjiang). Known from three small localities. In spite of recent expeditions in the area it has not been found again. It was collected on rocks along streams and rivers at elevations of 2900-3300 m in mountainous areas.

Only collections available are those collected by Handel-Mazzetti in 1914-1915 from Sichuan and Yunnan, southwestern China. The areas are threatened by rapid development of population and economy. It is known from only three specimens from two localities.

**History and Outlook:** *Sciaromiopsis sinensis* was collected by H. V. Handel-Mazzetti from Mt. Daliang, Sichuan and Lijiang Co., Yunnan, southwestern China during 1914-1915 and described as a new species by Brotherus in 1924. Since then, no specimens of this species have been collected and reported. Owing to rapid development of industry and population, rivers and streams in these areas may have been seriously polluted. It is not certain if habitats suitable to the species exist, and it is important to determine as soon as possible if suitable habitats are present. The natural vegetation at the sites is seriously disturbed today by a growing human population, deforestation and industrialisation which causes rivers to be heavily blocked with silt.

**References:**

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**Author of this red data sheet:** Dr. Tong Cao, Institute of Applied Ecology, Academia Sinica, Shenyang, Liaoning 110015, China.

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