

Thamnobryum fernandesii Sérgio

[syn. *Crassiphyllum fernandesii* (Sergio) Ochyra].

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

Class: Bryopsida

Order: Leucodontales

Family: Thamnobryaceae

Description and Biology: A large, wiry, dendroid, dark green or blackish pleurocarp moss. The stem and branch leaves are rigid, erect to erecto-patent, straight or slightly homomallous, linear-triangular and gradually narrowed to acuminate apex. The nerve is very strong, indistinctly delimited from lamina and occupying $\pm 1/3$ or more of the leaf base; margin denticulate, often strongly and irregularly dentate near apex. Sporophyte is unknown and only male plants are observed.

Distribution and Habitat: Only on Madeira (Portugal). After 1950 it has been found on more or less 4 localities within one square km (Sergio, et al. 1992) and 2 new localities based in the information of S. Fontinha. It grows in permanently wet habitats, such as dripping rocks or waterfalls in the central part of the island at high elevation above 1,000m.

History and Outlook: Reduction of water regime, increase of rubbish and water nitrification by grazing and tourism action in levadas, as well as degradation of habitats. Maintenance of permanent open systems with water supply is necessary to this aquatic perennial bryophyte of typical of Laurisilva communities.

Today, Madeira *Laurus* forest is under regional, national and international protection. It is considered a Place of the Natura 2000 Network and in 1999 was declared a World Natural Heritage of UNESCO.

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

Sergio, C., Schumacker, R., Fontinha, S. & Sim-Sim, M. 1992. Evaluation of the status of the bryophyte flora of Madeira with reference to endemic and threatened European species. *Biological Conservation* 59: 223-231.

Ochyra, R. 1991. *Crassiphyllum* (Thamnobryaceae), a new moss genus from Madeira. *Fragmenta Floristica Geobotanica* 36: 71-79.

Red data sheet author: Cecilia Sérgio and Suzana Fontinha

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