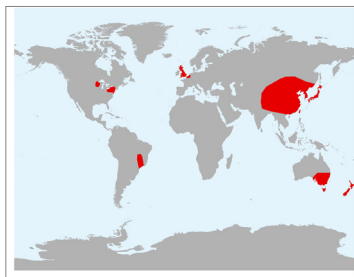




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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
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Geographical range

Species of the Day: *Diehliomyces microsporus*

Diehliomyces microsporus has not yet been officially evaluated for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, however, it has provisionally been listed as 'Data Deficient'. It is a microscopic fungus, known only from compost used for commercial farming of mushrooms. Claims that it originates from soil, while plausible, lack supporting evidence - it seems never to have been found in any natural habitat.

Mushroom farmers regard *Diehliomyces microsporus* as a "fungus weed" because infestations can cause serious economic loss. In recent years, various treatments have been developed, including compost pasteurization. These control the fungus very effectively, and *Diehliomyces microsporus* infestations have been totally eliminated on farms using the treatments.

The only habitat in which this fungus has ever been observed is thus being made unavailable to it. This species is threatened in cultivation and unknown in the wild, a very unusual situation which raises interesting and problematic conservation issues. Efforts are needed to find its natural habitat.

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