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## Species of the Day: Takakia ceratophylla

<u>Takakia ceratophylla</u> is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This moss represents a primitive group of bryophytes, and has an important position in the study and understanding of the evolution of land plants. It is found in just a few widely separated locations in the USA (Aleutian Islands), Sikkim, Nepal and China (Tibet, Yunnan).

Takakia ceratophylla grows mainly on shaded, damp cliffs, sheltered rock faces and very wet ground with late snow cover, sometimes forming luxuriant greenish cover in suitable habitat. However, in all localities its populations are very small, and are under threat from habitat disturbance caused by human activities. Climate change also poses a potentially serious threat, and the species' restriction to just a few small, fragmented areas makes it particularly vulnerable.

There are not known to be any specific conservation measures currently in place for this moss. It has much to reveal about bryophyte evolution, but its scattered populations will need full protection if the species is to survive long-term.









