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Amazing Species: Dacrydium guillauminii

<u>Dacrydium guillauminii</u> is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species[™]. This small, very distinct shrub is one of the rarest conifers in the world. A strictly riparian species, it grows below the waterline along a few kilometres of the Madeleine River and along the shore of Lac en Huit, within the Plaine des Lacs basin in New Caledonia, southwest Pacific.

As is typically expected of such a rare species, this conifer is confined to a very restricted habitat. It exists in just two or three fragmented populations and is threatened by unnatural fire regimes and increased tourism, which are reducing the shrub layer. This species is also potentially threatened by pollution from mining operations upstream.

Dacrydium guillauminii largely occurs in unprotected areas managed as mining concessions, although the largest sub-population is found at Chûtes de la Madeleine, which is managed as a biological reserve. Efforts are underway to restore habitats and regulate tourism within this reserve; however, until specific conservation measures are undertaken, the survival of this species will remain extremely precarious.





