

What is Takakia?

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About Takakia:

- It is a **rare genus of moss** that adapted over millions of years to life at high altitudes.
- **Appearance:** When seen from a distance, it looks like a later of moss or green algae on the rocks where it grows. But closer inspection would reveal slender turf around one centimetre in length with an arrangement of short, finger-like leaves.
- It is a genus that only has two species (**T. lepidozoides** and **T. ceratophylla**) and both of them are found together only in the Tibetan Plateau.
- It has developed the ability to survive frost, life-threatening UV radiation and other hazardous conditions.
- It combines features found in mosses, liverworts and green algae.
- It is a moss that separated from other mosses 390 million years ago, not long after the first land plants evolved.

Key facts about Moss

- It is a **small nonvascular spore-bearing land plants**.
 - Mosses are distributed throughout the world **except in salt water** and are commonly found in moist shady locations.
 - Ecologically, mosses break down exposed substrata, releasing nutrients for the use of more-complex plants that succeed them.
 - They also aid in soil erosion control by providing surface cover and absorbing water, and they are important in the nutrient and water economy of some vegetation types.
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Q1) What is Soil erosion?

Soil erosion is the process by which soil is moved or displaced from one location to another by natural or human-induced factors. It involves the removal of the top layer of soil, which contains valuable nutrients and organic matter that support plant growth and ecosystem health.

Source: Oldest surviving plant species saw dinosaurs come and go, humans threaten it

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-takakia/>

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