

# Organisms of the Senkaku Islands

## Invaluable ecosystems on uninhabited islands in the distant seas

The Senkaku Islands are isolated islands floating in the East China Sea and are inhabited by organisms that thrive in the subtropical oceanic climate and are biologically invaluable to the geological history of the islands. Many of the flora and fauna observed in the academic survey conducted in 1979 have been designated as endangered or near threatened species.



Photography: Yoshima Niiro

### Hypericum senkakuinsulare

Guttiferae  
Critically Endangered IA (CR)

Grows on terrain such as the cloud belt and rocky areas of the windswept mountain peaks of Uotsuri Island. A woody shrub that grows to about 50 cm tall. The flowers, measuring 3 – 4 cm in diameter, grow on the tips of small branches. An endemic species of Uotsuri Island.



Photography: Kazuharu Shinjo



Photography: Yoshima Niiro

### Rhododendron simsii var. tawadae

Ericaceae  
Critically Endangered IA (CR)

A shrub that sometimes grows as a creeper on windy terrain on the mountain peaks of Uotsuri Island. The flower is small and light purple in color, and grows densely in the tree canopy. Some flowers have been brought back from the islands and cultivated for ornamental uses.



Photography: Yoshima Niiro

### Limonium senkakuense

Plumbaginaceae  
Critically Endangered IA (CR)

A perennial herb that grows on the coasts and elevated coral reefs of Uotsuri Island. Exists in extremely small populations in its habitats, and is considered to be an endemic species of Uotsuri Island.