

# Pennycress communities of alpine scree slopes



Pennycress communities

Rock screes at high elevations are hostile habitats for most plants. In addition to the extreme climatic conditions, the lack of soil and the instability of the loose rock mean that most plant species cannot survive here. Only a few, highly specialised species can grow on these scree slopes.

## Photos:

- 1** This bed is modelled on rock scree slopes found above the tree line in the Limestone Alps. Plants that occur in places like this have developed a variety of strategies to survive on the unstable rock debris. Photo: L. Köhler
- 2** The round-leaved pennycress (*Thlaspi rotundifolium*) anchors itself in the shifting scree with long, deep-rooted runners, a strategy known as scree wandering. Photo: L. Köhler
- 3** The alpine toadflax (*Linaria alpina*) creeps over the scree with numerous leafy shoots. So-called “scree creepers” like this species play an important role in humus formation and soil development. Photo: L. Köhler



Experimental Botanical Garden

More information

