

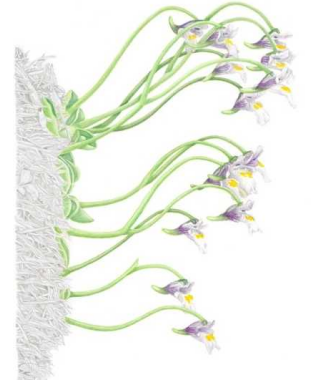


Tochigi's rare gem- Koshinso Butterwort

Morning speech #5

By Sophie

Good morning everyone! I want to talk about a weekend trip I had to look for one of Tochigi's special secrets! My friends and I decided to go plant hunting. One of my friends was very interested in plants and found out about a special plant called Koshinso Butterwort. This plant is so rare and unique to Koshin Mountain that it is protected by Japanese law, so no one can take the plants home or damage it. This plant is really interesting. It lives on the side of a rock wall and can only survive where there is the right amount of water, sunlight and low temperatures. The plant feeds by collecting insects. The insects become attracted to the plant and stick to the stem and base. Over time the insects die and all the nutrients are taken into the plant! This plant is only found in Nikko so it is very special indeed!!



My friends and I decided to spend the night in a mountain hut. We hiked 3 hours to the mountain hut with big packs and stayed overnight. The next morning, it was pouring rain, but we decided to keep going to find the flower! It took us about 1.5 hours to hike to the flower which was further up the mountain. We could only see the flower on two rock walls! The first plants we found had already dropped their flowers and we felt so disappointed to miss the flower. But! I went ahead and found a second area higher up, and you know what?! I found some flowers in this second location! We were so happy to get a chance to see them. The flower only blooms for one month a year so it was a very rare and unique experience to have. Maybe you should keep an eye out for other rare plants in Tochigi. ☺

Please choose the correct answer:

1) Why is the Koshinso plant special? A) It is only found in an area in Nikko B) Because it eats insects C) It only blooms one month a year D) It is so small and cute	2) What kind of place does the plant live? A) On a rock wall B) Where there is enough water C) Where the temperatures are low D) All of the above
3) How did Sophie see the plant? A) She looked it up on the internet B) She drove to Ashio and saw it C) She hiked there in one day D) She stayed overnight in a hut and hiked to it.	4) Why were they disappointed in the beginning? A) The first place didn't have the flower B) The plant wasn't blooming C) There wasn't any plants D) The plant wasn't that interesting