

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY
TROPICAL BRYOLOGY GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Edited by Michelle J. Price

No. 19

August 2004

Riclef Grolle, 1934-2004

Riclef Grolle, one of the most respected hepaticologists of his generation, and a long-standing member of the TBG, died on 12 June 2004, shortly before his 70th birthday. Although he was crippled by polio whilst still in his teens, he was an active hepaticologist for his whole career, working at home as an employee of the University of Jena. As well as being supportive of the TBG at its initiation, members will also have met him at IAB meetings, where he showed a great interest in meeting people who he had known previously only through correspondence and publications. Full appreciations of his life and work will be published elsewhere, and have already appeared in *Cryptogamie*, *Bryologie* 25(3): 203-204 and *Bryological Times* 113.

Annual General Meeting

The next TBG AGM will be at the *BBS AGM and Bryological Symposium* to be held in Preston Montford, 8-10 October, 2004 (for meeting details contact Mark Hill. Tel. +44(0)1487-772400 or email: moh@ceh.ac.uk). The TBG AGM meeting itself will be held on 9th October at 19.15.

TBG AGM AGENDA

1. Notes of last AGM
2. Matters arising
3. New TBG objectives
4. Future TBG expeditions / trips
8. Any other business
9. Place & date of next TBG AGM

BBS TBG AGM

**6 September 2003, Queens College, London
Notes of Meeting**

Present: Tom Blockeel, Jeff Duckett, Len Ellis, Jonathan Graham, Alan Harrington, David Holyoak, Nick Hodgetts, Liz Kungu, David Long, Howard Matcham, Brian O'Shea (notes), Roy Perry, Ron Porley, Chris Preston, Michelle Price (chair), Robin Stevenson, Herman Stieperaere, Martin Wigginton.

Apologies: Angie Newton, Royce Longton

1. Notes of the last AGM meeting (see Newsletter 18). Accepted.

2. Matters arising

AP1. Brian O'Shea to contact Dr. James Seyani regarding the funding of collecting in Malawi. Dr. Seyani has been emailed but no reply was received. A second email address had now been found for Dr. Seyani and he would be contacted again.

AP2. Jeff Duckett to contact the Association of the Commonwealth Universities regarding funding / support for collecting in Malawi.

AP3a. Michelle Price to contact Zach Magombo to propose a TBG trip to Malawi and to discuss any future trip or trips. Completed. A positive response was received suggesting that two trips of up to 12 people would be possible. Michelle will continue to liaise with Zach to develop this. See discussion below regarding the future trip.

AP3b. Royce Longton to discuss with Terry Hedderson the possibility of a visit to South Africa. Terry replied positively with suggestions of several different locations for trips, and mentioned 2005 as a possible date. It was thought that this could act as a 'popular' introduction to a more exotic bryoflora, of interest to a wider BBS membership as well as to the members of the

TBG. Unfortunately Terry has not been able to confirm a date with Royce and this cannot trip be confirmed in time for the next Bulletin (for a 2005 trip).

AP4. Michelle Price and Brian O'Shea to review the TBG objectives and to produce a document for discussion at the next TBG AGM. Completed. The review document was made available on the TBG website (document no. 66), and is discussed in more detail below (article 3). Howard Matcham suggested that it would make a useful contribution to the Bulletin as an advert for TBG.

AP1. Michelle to make ready a summary article for the *Bulletin*

3. New TBG objectives / directions: discussion.

Michelle introduced the document which had been sent out to the TBG executive and members before the meeting. The document was accompanied by an outline of future directions of the TBG with discussion points and questions. After a general discussion of the options outlined it seemed clear to the TBG members at the meeting that nothing should be ruled out at this stage. It was generally agreed that since a lot of experience had been gained by TBG members for the African bryophyte flora the main thrust of the TBG should be continue in this direction, with future efforts building on what has already been achieved. At this point, given the commitments of the most active TBG members, it was felt that tackling a project like *Bryologia Africana* would be too ambitious an aim. However:

- 1) Further work in Malawi would be an obvious next step for the TBG group given the success of the first trip and the presence in Malawi of a bryologist
- 2) Further work in Uganda would also be a possibility
- 3) Madagascar (already, in part investigated by researchers at G and MO for vascular plants)
- 4) Réunion (the late Theo Arts had already done much work on this flora, which could be consolidated and pursued).
- 5) Belize at the BM field station might be a possible joint TBG-BBS excursion introducing the bryophytes of tropical America
- 6) South Africa was another possible way of generating more interest in tropical bryophytes in a wider BBS audience.

In view of this no options will be turned down until more concrete proposals are drawn up.

Michelle continued by discussing the future development of the website which is well behind schedule due to her other commitments. It was

considered important to make the TBG website a comprehensive resource for tropical bryophyte work, particularly on Africa.

- 1) One possibility would be to keep adding revised genera to the website (as an interim substitute for *Bryologia Africana*), and updating the literature and keys.
- 2) There was a strong feeling that the lack of literature was the single most important limitation to research efforts both in the UK but more significantly in African countries. For UK researchers literature was difficult to come by for those people not working in an research institute where journals are more readily available. It was felt that an update of the O'Shea article would be a welcome addition to the website – as would more information on literature generally (including more free access to literature).
- 3) Following the acquisition of the library of Alan Crundwell by the BBS library has a large collection of reprints, however these are not catalogued in anyway at present.

AP. Brian O'Shea to contact Ken Adams, with a view to checking the coverage of African / Tropical subjects in the BBS library and this information to be made available on the TBG website.

- 1) Similarly an update of Greene & Harrington (1988, 1989) would be a great help to members in highlighting regional and new taxonomic literature. Although the new additions to this work would be a major task it was suggested by David Long that it might be possible to convert the manuscript to a word processed format as for WAFLO, where a number of people took specific families, and to type for the EW Jones manuscript. Although a time consuming task it was considered to be important to attempt to update this work.
- 2) It was thought that none of these web/databasing tasks were likely to attract funding, which would be another way of encouraging people to attempt these tasks. David Long suggested that this might be possible as a part of an African project and presented in terms of 'repatriation of data' – returning to Africa the literature that is needed to work on the flora.

Michelle concluded by discussing the need for / encouragement of more students into the TBG, and the issue of involving more students in Bryology. A degree of pessimism was expressed mainly focussing around the impression that 'Bryology' was not seen as an interesting option for students, particularly since it and botany in general seems to receive a low profile in

teaching. The lack of undergraduate tuition in bryology / botany means that there is no longer a route through which bryologists develop.

4. Future TBG expeditions / trips. Malawi was seen as the most promising possibility at present. To gauge opinion on this a show of hands was requested to see what the interest would be in this albeit small representation to the TBG membership. The following responded positively, M. Wigginton, N. Hodgetts, R. Porley, M. Price, B. O'Shea, D. Long, L. Kungu, L. Ellis. A costed proposal, and approaches towards potential funding organisations (National Geographic, Darwin Initiative, Commonwealth Institute), was needed. Workshops might be an addition to TBG activities worth considering, and funding for a follow up flora. It was decided that three weeks was a suitable duration for a collecting trip since most TBG members do not get academic length vacations and would have to use their private vacation time. It was noted that as much advance warning of a trip as possible was important so that people could make the necessary arrangements with their work places and families. Also that someone would need to go to Malawi in advance of the trip to make and necessary arrangements locally and make sure that all was ready.

AP. Michelle Price to contact Zach Magombo over possible future trip/s to Malawi.

5. EWJ Tropical African Hepatic Flora (report). This topic was discussed during the BBS AGM. Following the completion of the illustrations by Omer Van der Kerckhove, and the detailed work of Martin Wigginton, Herman Stieperaere said that he hoped this volume would go to press in December of this year (2003).

Due to lack of time the following agenda items were not covered:

6. Mosses and Liverworts of Uganda (report)
7. African Generic Flora (GBA) report
8. Any other business
9. Place and date of the next TBG AGM will be 9th October 2004 at Preston Montford.

Contributions to TBG newsletters

The TBG newsletter relies heavily on contributions from members, especially for the section 'news of members,' and for information on bryological research activities, information on publications and for any features included.

Please send your contributions for future TBG newsletters, at any time, to Michelle Price (see email address at end).

Report: IAB Congress, Mérida, Venezuela.

The IAB Congress in Mérida, Venezuela was held from 10-19 January of 2004 and located at the Universidad de Los Andes. The meeting, was hosted and organised by Yelitza León Vargas, Ricardo Rico and a team of staff and students from Centro Jardín Botánico and Universidad de Los Andes (Alicia Bohórquez, Maria Silvina Ussher, Francisca Ely Bali, Rosa Pabon, Jimmy Morales and students including Yolanda Cáceres, Sol Gonzales, Erik Hernández) based in Mérida. A big thank you and a congratulations is due to the Mérida team for organising such a successful IAB congress.

This congress meeting proved to be both extremely enjoyable and very stimulating with presentations on bryophyte molecular phylogenetic studies, taxonomy, systematics, floristics, ecology, anatomy and development, history and bryo-informatics delivered over the five day conference period. There were over 60 participants at the congress from over 20 countries, including Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico and Venezuela from Latin America. Two pre-congress workshops were held. One was on Bryophyte Conservation run by Tomas Hallingbäck and the other, conducted by Robb Gradstein, on the Lejeuneaceae.

A visit to the Botanical Garden in Mérida allowed participants to see for themselves the project underway there to re-create a montane forest environment. This successful project was started with a view to providing a setting for education about local forests, and for the conservation of them.

A field trip to a local forest site Monte Zerpa was held mid-way through the conference and this excursion gave people the opportunity to visit, many for the first time, a tropical forest site. Two full day field-trips were held after the congress taking participants to two spectacular locations: the Podocarpus montane cloud forest called 'La Carbonera,' and to the páramo and *Polylepis* forest around Laguna Negra (Páramo de Mucubaji, Sierra Nevada National Park). Both days provided participants the chance to experience two very different habitats, and the varied bryophyte and tracheophyte species that inhabit them.

The Mérida IAB congress was a fantastic opportunity to discover the wide range of

bryological research currently being conducted worldwide, to meet up with international colleagues, to make new contacts and connections, and generally to experience the hospitality and beauty of Venezuela and the Venezuelan people. *Michelle Price*

Eustace Jones West African hepatic flora

I should like to thank all the BBS and TGB members who contributed to this project, without whose collective efforts the book would not have come to fruition. Herman Stieperaere has been indefatigable at the Brussels end, allocating a great deal of his time to this project, overseeing the preparation of drawings and steering the book through to production. Early on, Robb Gradstein, Riclef Grolle and Tamás Pócs commented on Eustace's text and made suggestions for improvement. Special thanks to David Long for help in numerous ways, to Alan Harrington for chapters on the history of liverwort collecting and habitats in West Africa, for reading a late draft of the whole book and making many suggestions for its improvement, to Brian O'Shea for the chapter on collecting and processing bryophytes, and to Jeff Duckett and Roy Perry for a short biography of Eustace Jones. For the initial laborious task of typing Eustace's manuscript into a computer file thanks are due to: Richard Fisk, Nick Hodgetts, David Long, Peter Martin, Roy Perry, Liz Pickles, Michael Proctor, Brian O'Shea, Tony (AJ) Smith, Robin Stevenson, Mike Walton and Peter Wilberforce. *M.J. Wigginton*

Eustace Jones West African hepatic flora Details and purchasing information

The 441-page book is published as a volume (Vol. 30) in the *Scripta Botanica Belgica* series, and is produced by the Jardin Botanique National de Belgique, Meise, on a non-profit making basis. Broadleaf Books is the UK supplier of the work. The book will cost £26.50 plus postage and packing. Buyers will be invoiced and payment must be by cheque in GBP drawn on a UK Bank or by bank transfer. Visa payments are not accepted. Buyers who have a euro / US dollar or other currency bank account may prefer to obtain the book from their usual non-UK supplier, but if they find this difficult they should email us (below) and ask for terms.

Roy & Hilary Perry, Broadleaf Books, 35 Cardiff Road, DINAS POWYS, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 4DH, UK Tel.: +44 (0)29 2051 3382; email: broadleafbooks1@aol.com

This book is the first fully illustrated and complete identification guide to West Africa (Mauritania to Cameroon and Rio Muni and the Gulf of Guinea Islands). It contains keys and descriptions of the 30 families, 84 genera and 297 species of liverworts and hornworts recorded from the region, all illustrated on 285 plates. The flora also provides an introduction to the morphology of these plants and explains how to collect and study them. Not only is it a valuable source of information on the relationships and the morphology of the 297 species treated, but it also gives data on habitat and distribution which will be useful for ecologists and conservationists alike. Illustrations of about 50 species of hepatics, for which there were no adequate published illustrations of African material, have been prepared by Omer Van der Kerckhove, botanical illustrator at the National Botanic Garden of Belgium.

Dr Eustace Jones (Jonah to his friends), a lecturer in the Forestry School, University of Oxford, collected hepatics extensively in Africa, often during his forestry work there. He published more than 70 bryological papers, over 40 of which were devoted to African hepatics. He worked for many years on the West African hepatic flora, but died in 1992, before he could complete it, leaving a draft manuscript of keys and descriptions.

Martin Wigginton has edited the text of the flora and brought it into line with the most recent literature, extending the area covered by the flora far beyond the Gulf of Guinea. It is thanks to him that Dr Jones's Flora will now see the light of day. *Roy Perry*

MALOU Progress

The Mosses and Liverworts of Uganda Flora has finally hit the bookstands, with the first contribution appearing in *Journal of Bryology* 26(2): 147-151. The initial intention to produce a book proved to be unsuccessful, with very few contributions being received by the deadline, but Jeff Bates (senior editor) was able to arrange that future volumes of *J. Bryol.* would contain a MALOU family treatment in each issue. I think we are now in double figures for completed families, although some are still awaiting

illustration: we are grateful to the BBS for providing funding for some of the illustrations.

Where we go from here is undecided. I would like to see each family contribution made available on the web, to bring them all together in one place, preferably looking as close as possible to the original publications, but this of course will require investigation. The current instructions to authors also needs revising to reflect the new publication method, and hopefully the website will be updated over the summer.
Brian O'Shea

Publication of Mosses and Liverworts of Uganda (MALOU)

Publication of the 'Bryophyte Flora of Uganda' will begin in *Journal of Bryology* in serial form in Volume 26. The first publication in the series will be the Jungermanniaceae, followed by the Gymnomitriaceae. Foreseen for volumes in the near future are the Lophoziaceae (J. Vána with illustrations by M. Watling); Hypnaceae, Hylocomiaceae and Rhytidiaceae (L. Hedenäs); Fissidentaceae (M. Bruggeman-Nannenga); Plagiotheciaceae (R. Ochrya & B. O'Shea) and Dicranaceae (J.-P. Frahm & C. La Farge). We hope to publish one family or family group per issue of the journal. There will also be keys to families and other related articles in due course.
Jeff Bates

The BBS-TBG website

In the hiatus between development of the Website 'Cryptogamie' at Geneva and subsequent move of the TBG website to it Brian O'Shea re-designed the BBS TBG website. The TBG website is currently hosted by the Natural History Museum, London and can be reached via the BBS home page under the menus 'Bryological Portal' or 'Activities' or directly at:
http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/bbstbg/

This new look TBG site is easy to navigate and it provides quick access to the TBG documents / newsletters / publications, MALOU project information, on-line keys, TBG progress reports, TBG membership list and links to three other websites / projects of particular interest : Tropical Bryology Research; Guide to bryophytes of Africa (GBA); Checklist of mosses of North Africa.

In addition to the re-design of the TBG website the following additions have been made to it:

1) Newsletter Volume 18.

2) New objectives and directions for TBG ? (Aug 2003) (publication no. 66)

3) Link to Dixon Type Specimen Project

Contributions to the TBG website: The coordinator is seeking contributions to the TBG website. Contributions can be as keys/treatments to tropical genera, travelogues of field trips, pictures of tropical bryophytes, interesting bryological finds, details of research activities of members, or as links to published works on-line from other project or institutional websites.

News of members

Min Chuah-Petiot: After the publication of her book *Mosses and Liverworts of Kenya* in November of 2003 (details below) Min was involved in several bryophyte collecting trips: 30th March to 3rd April 2004 - field collecting trip to the Taita hills, Kenya within the context of the Sixth Tropical African Bryology Training course); and, 19th July to 2nd August 2004 - expedition to Madagascar with Prof. Pócs. Collection of bryophytes from the Inselbergs between Antsirabe and Fianaratsoa and in Ranomafana National Park

Min attended the IAB Congress in Mérida, Venezuela in January of 2004 and then organized and presented the Sixth Tropical African Bryology Training Course in the Department of Botany, University of Nairobi, Kenya from 29th March to 2nd April. Prof. Pócs was guest tutor. Participants: Dr. Olubukunola Oyesiku from Nigeria, Mr. Itambo Malombe from the Herbarium, National Museums of Kenya, Mr. Henry Muchura and Ms. Eunice Githae, both post-graduates from the University of Nairobi.

Patxi Heras, together with **Marta Infante** and **Dan Norris**, spent a month in the summer 2003 in Equatorial Guinea, supported by a grant from National Geographic Society. The objective of this work was investigating the Inselbergs in the interior of the Continental Region (Río Muni), as well as the forest in the surrounding areas.

In Equatorial Guinea, Inselbergs are un-forested areas on granitic domes dominated by various poikilohydric vascular plant species especially in the Poaceae and Cyperaceae. Climbing to the top of these hills offers the only opportunity of escaping from the claustrophobic and dark interior of the forest below and gives the most beautiful view over the green "sea" of the canopy.

These islands provide refuge to heliophyllous and xerophyllous plant species that could have colonized the area during the late glaciation in the Pleistocene, when the African rainforest reduced and fragmented to the benefit of the savanna.

We were able to visit seven Inselbergs of different types. Species diversity in the rocky open areas of the Inselbergs seems to be low, but radically different from the floristic composition of the surrounding forest. Remarkable is the concentrated presence of species in the Dicranaceae and Bryaceae in a country where these two moss families have very few representatives. We noted the absence of typically aquatic species in the Sphagnaceae and Amblystegiaceae, which were wrongly mentioned in the non-specialized botanical bibliography that exists for the country. From our collections so far, we can also say that some of the Inselberg bryophytes are able to colonize disturbed areas by roads and some others are shared by the photic zone in the surrounding forest canopy. The presence of montane, eastern African species is also expected. *Patxi Heras and Marta Infante*

Michael Proctor: I was in Trinidad for a fortnight in October, staying at 'Simla' (the house above Arima built as a country retreat for the Governor in the early 1900s, and later owned by the eminent Dr William Beebe and the New York Zoological Society) and spent some time doing desiccation compensation-period experiments with *Papillaria (Meteorium) nigrescens* and a small *Plagiochila* from the forest on the Northern Range - to which I have since added some light-response and desiccation experiments on the *Papillaria* back in the lab here. The IAB meeting in Merida gave me the opportunity to get light-response curves for *Monoclea gottschei*, a *Cyathodium* sp., *Pogonatum semipellucidum*, *Phyllogonium fulgens* and (cf.) *Meteoridium remotifolium*, and revived dry material has provided some light-response and/or desiccation data for *Prionodon densus*, *Frullania convoluta*, *Pilotrichella flexilis*, *Polytrichum juniperinum* (!), *Hedwigia ciliata*, *Pogonatum perichaetiale* and a *Polytrichadelphus* species. So considering I made a resolution not to collect (on the grounds that I already have far too many undetermined bryophytes waiting to be looked at) it was quite a profitable trip. Non-bryologically, I found two *Hymenophyllum* spp. and two *Trichomanes* spp. in both Trinidad and Venezuela, with only one of the *Hymenophyllum* species in common, so a bit of filmy-fern physiology has been done as well.

Bryophyte Research News

Report on the tropical activities in the Research Group for Bryology of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and at the Department of Botany, Eszterházy College, Eger, Hungary

The Research Group, due to the retirement of Prof. Tamás Pócs, has a new leader, Prof. Sándor Orbán. **Sándor Orbán**, after completing his revision of African Calymperaceae, is doing the editorial work for his monograph. He is also working on the identification of Calymperaceae and *Riccardia* material collected in 1996 from Réunion and in 1998 from Madagascar. Recently he has clarified the taxonomic position of *Syrrophodon cuneifolius* and begun to identify Calymperaceae collected on Fiji Islands by S. & T. Pócs, in 2003.

Gabriella Kis, a senior bryologist member of the Bryology Research Group, is studying the *Daltonia* types of Helsinki herbarium and of the New York Botanical Garden. She works on the identification of Neotropical and Fiji Island Hookeriales. In addition, she is preparing a detailed, annotated catalogue of the 526 Extra-European bryophyte types (267 liverwort and 259 moss types) of Eger Herbarium (EGR).

Andrea Sass-Gyarmati, is the other bryologist member of the Eger Research Group. Her main interest is the taxonomy of Ptychanthoideae subfamily of the Lejeuneaceae. She studies the types and identifies worldwide material of the subfamily. She is also working on the revision of the African and Oceanic species of *Lopholejeunea*, and will publish new species for the group.

András Szabó, lecturer at the Botany Department, works on a worldwide revision of the genus *Leptolejeunea*, as one of the Ph.D. students of Prof. Pócs. At the moment he is also working on type studies of material from G, and identifying material collected on Madagascar and neighbouring islands.

Ricardo R. Rico, from the Universidad de los Andes, Mérida, Venezuela, is working on the revision of the Venezuelan representatives of the genus *Riccardia*, as a Ph.D. student of Prof. Pócs. At the same time as his thesis started he began to work on a monograph of the Hepaticae of Canaima National Park in Venezuelan Guayana.

A publication on the liverworts of Roraima Tepui is now available.

Tamás Pócs retired in 2003 and obtained a Professor Emeritus status. He now participates only in postgraduate training and concentrates on collecting and research work.

During the past two years Tamás, with his wife and herbarium assistant **Sarolta Pócs**, has conducted / participated in collecting trips to the Sahara Atlas of Tunisia, the Fiji Islands, the Dominican Republic and Kenya. In Kenya he held lectures and participated in the field trips of the V. and VI. Tropical African Bryology Training Courses organized by Dr. Min-Chuah Petiot at Nairobi University.

In addition, he and Sarolta have a voluntary contract with the National Museums of Kenya, East African Herbarium, to care for the cryptogamic collections for a period of three months every year. At the beginning of this year they had ordered, identified, revised and labelled the Hepaticae specimens and inventoried the types. During the same period they made a successful collecting trip to some of the drier areas of Kenya. These two Kenyan visits have resulted in the collection of several species new to the whole of Africa (this year of *Didymodon revolutus* and *Syntrichia amphidiacea*), many new to the flora of Kenya (*Colura saroltae*, *Mannia capensis*, *Riccia microciliata*, *Nanobryum duemmeri*, *Weissia latiuscula*, and a new variety of *Pseudocrossidium replicatum*) and other rarities. Finally, several taxa new to science have been discovered (recently a *Cheilolejeunea* and a *Lejeunea* species). Tamás is currently studying the epiphyllous communities and the cyanobacterial, bryophyte and lichen components of cryptobiotic crusts in arid and semi-arid areas.

He also continues his revisional work on the Australian Jubulaceae and on the Neotropical Cololejeuneae.

Future perspectives: Some members of the Eger Research Group and of the Botany Department will visit Tanzania and Madagascar in July within the framework of the Inselberg Project, to investigate the cryptogamic component of poikilohydric communities. They also plan to visit the Venezuelan Andes early next year to investigate correlations between the tropical montane forest bryophytes and their invertebrate fauna. They also expect to participate in a Comoro Islands trip with special emphasis on studying the biodiversity of Mayotte Island.

New members/Change of address

Claudine Ah-Peng: Claudine has spent nearly three years in the Bryology research team at the National Muséum of Natural History in Paris, working on the development of cultures of *Fontinalis antipyretica* Hedw. for the biomonitoring of French rivers. She would now like to focus her studies on systematics and ecology of tropical bryophytes.

Originally from Réunion Island, Claudine will begin her Ph.D. at the University of Réunion Island in October of 2004. Her thesis will be entitled: "Diversity and distribution of bryophytes in Forest ecosystems of Réunion Island." Systematics, ecology and the phytosociology of bryophytes will be studied. This work will consist of the comparison of bryophyte associations from primary to secondary forest systems, which may have been disrupted by human activities (deforestation, culturing), natural impacts (invasive plants). The final goal will be to determine if some species of bryophytes from Réunion can indicate the state of forests for conservation.

Collaboration with bryologists from the neighbouring (Kenya, South Africa) and European countries are envisaged, to assist Claudine with the identification of specimens. She would be very interested in taking part in any tropical bryological courses.

Claudine and her co-advisor Jacques Bardat (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle), collected bryophytes during two weeks spent on Réunion in March 2004. Collections were made in the primary forest systems of this island (Plaine des fougères, Forêt de Mare Longue, and Forêt de la Rivière des Remparts). At present, they are also continuing their work on the identification of these specimens, and hope to prepare a paper about this first collection trip in 2005.

Presently, Claudine is responsible for the National Botanical Conservatory of Mascarine, based in Réunion Island. She has been working on a database of bryophytes from Réunion, reported in literature. This database, named "Mascarine," will hopefully be on-line on the *Tela Botanica* website at the end of 2004. The content of this database concerns names of taxa, and associated information as reported in the literature (synonymy, original publication, typification, localities etc.).

Contact details for Claudine: 119, rue Paul Hermann, 97430 Le Tampon, Ile de la Réunion, Email: ahpengc@caramail.com

Jacques Bardat : Jacques is working in the Bryology research team at the National Muséum of Natural History, Paris. His research interests concern the ecology of bryophytes, and the characterization of bryophytes communities (geographical repartition, dynamics, and their behaviour in diverse terrestrial ecosystems). He recently developed a phyto-sociological synopsis for French metropolitan bryo-associations. His bryological skills concern the European temperate area, the boreal zones (North America only) but also the tropics (French Guiana). He is particularly interested in the evolution of the bryological communities with the changes of forest ecosystems. He uses bryophytes as bio-indicators to characterize the state of conservation of ecosystems and to assess the impacts of transformation of natural sites. Presently, he is working with Claudine Ah-Peng to realize a reference collection of specimens for Réunion Island.

Contact details for Jacques: Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Développement Régulation et Diversité Moléculaire, USM 505, 12, Rue Buffon, 75005 Paris. Email: bardat@mnhn.fr

Prof. Dr. Eberhard Fischer: is professor of botany at the University of Koblenz, Germany. He is interested in bryophytes, especially liverworts and hornworts from Central and East Africa (Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya). For more details please see his homepage (below). Eberhard Fischer is currently working on a bryophyte flora of Rwanda. He has done intensive fieldwork during 30 fieldtrips, the last ones being from September to October 2003 and March to April 2004. Beside numerous new records, a new *Drepanolejeunea* has been discovered (see Buchbender, V. & Fischer, E.: *Drepanolejeunea vandenberghenii* (Jungermanniopsida: Lejeuneaceae) a previously overlooked new species from Rwanda including comments on *Drepanolejeunea physaefolia* and *Harpalejeunea fischeri*. J. Bryol., in press.). The first volume of the Bryophyte Flora of Rwanda (Liverworts and Hornworts) is to be published in 2005/2006.

Prof. Fischer is also involved in a project on fragmentation of rainforests in Kenya and Uganda (BIOTA East), financed by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). During the first phase from 2001 to 2004, the bryophytes of rainforests with different degrees of disturbance have been studied in Kakamega Forest and on Mt. Kenya in cooperation with the Herbarium of the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). The

second phase which started in June 2004 will extend the field work to Uganda (Budongo Forest, Mabira Forest).

Contact details for Prof Fischer: Institute of Integrated Natural Sciences, Department of Biology, University of Koblenz, Universitätsstr. 1, D-56070 Koblenz e-mail: efischer@uni-koblenz.de. Website: <http://www.uni-koblenz.de/~sinsch/html/fischer/start.html>

Aino Juslén: Hi, I am Aino Juslén, a PhD student from University of Helsinki, Finland. Currently I live in the Netherlands, and work as a visiting researcher in University of Utrecht. You will find me in Helsinki again in December 2004. I study a magnificent genus of liverworts, *Herbertus*. I concentrate on Asian species and I am interested also in phylogeny of the genus. I belong to group of hepaticologists in Helsinki, together we examine phylogeny of liverworts. I have also studied the Singapore liverwort flora and taken part to the project Bryophyte flora of Hunan Province, China. A new most challenging project led by Benito Tan and Sinikka Piippo is the bryophyte study of two nature reserves in Sri Lanka. I will enjoy collecting there next January.

TBG Notice-board

Index Hepaticarum: Work on the completion of the final volume (*A-Jubula*) of the second editions of Index Hepaticarum continues at Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève (G). The project database now contains 30,370 hepatic names (9519 for the series *A-Jubula*). Michelle Price and Anne Streiff are currently working on verifying database entries, specifically adding the few missing names and/or protologue and publication information, and verifying the nomenclature and validity status for each record. Soon the assistance of expert / specialist hepaticologists will be needed to check over database records as genera are completed.

International Association of Bryologists (IAB) meetings: The next IAB meeting will be held at the International Botanical Congress in Vienna to be held in July of 2005. The following IAB congress will be held in 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Visit the new IAB website at: <http://www.bryology.org>

Tropical Bryology

Vol. 24 of *Tropical Bryology* was published in 2004. To subscribe to this journal contact Jan-Peter Frahm (fracm@uni-bonn.de). Each volume is charged separately at around £10 per volume. There is also a webpage for the journal: <http://www.uni-bonn.de/bryologie/tb.htm>

Collecting mosses in Sri Lanka

From 16 to 30 May this year I was in Sri Lanka, collecting bryophytes with Dr Benito C. Tan, on a trip organised by Dr Nimal Gunatilleke of Peradeniya University, Sri Lanka, to Sinharaja forest and the Knuckles mountains. This trip was funded by Peradeniya University, Peradeniya Botanic Garden, the National Geographic Society and the National University of Singapore. A couple of years ago I published a checklist of the mosses of Sri Lanka (1), having never been to the island, so it was a great pleasure at last to set foot there, and to see some of the mosses which previously were just names to me. The checklist (1) included 558 mosses - a very high total for a land mass that is only 27% of the size of the UK. Bryology has a long and illustrious history in Sri Lanka, particularly in the 19th Century, mainly due to the efforts of Gardner and Thwaites, two of the early Directors of Peradeniya Botanic Garden, between 1844 and 1880. Their collections were distributed widely by William Mitten, who identified most of them and published many endemic species, and duplicates of which are still present in Peradeniya Herbarium (PDA).

In an analysis (2) of the data gathered for the checklist the main influences on the diversity of Sri Lankan mosses were seen to be the lack of a significant dry season, and migration of rainforest species from S. E Asia (presumably via the prevailing winds). This high level of diversity, and moss endemism of 11% (1.5% endemism in the UK), is despite a density of population higher than that of the UK.

More details and statistics, and an up to date checklist with synonyms and literature details, can be found at:

<http://www.tropicalbryologyresearch.co.uk/> (click directly onto the 'Sri Lanka' button). This link will also take you to an account of our trip, with a number of photos showing the landscapes and habitats we visited.

Bryology is taught at Peradeniya University as part of the botany course. This botany course includes a strong fieldwork element and

knowledge of local flora and fauna was high, particularly amongst those doing Master's degrees; conservation-related projects were popular. Equipment suitable for bryology is in short supply, but this hasn't stopped students building up a small collection in the department, however there is no published flora of Sri Lankan bryophytes so identification is difficult. Peradeniya Botanic Garden is next to the university campus, and has an elegant herbarium, which has been much used during the current production of the new flowering plant flora, but little use is made of the bryophyte herbarium. The herbarium is not air-conditioned, but the specimens, housed in hardwood cupboards, are easily accessible and in reasonable condition (glued to sheets). Some more modern collections are held separately, and are kept as individual packets in card-index style. Loans are available. The Director of the Garden, Dr. Siril Wijesundara, is responsible for the herbarium as well as the entire (very large) garden, research, and the molecular facility which is used also by university students.

The specimens collected by Ben Tan and myself will be posted to Ben in Singapore when all the paper work is completed. All my collections will be sent to me for packeting, and we then divide the specimens for identification, each of us responsible for specific families. The end product will be a joint paper, covering both bryology and the wider areas of ecology, habitats, forest types and conservation priorities.
Brian J. O'Shea

(1) **O'Shea, B.J. 2002.** Checklist of the mosses of Sri Lanka. *J. Hatt. Bot. Lab.* **92**: 125-164.

(2) **O'Shea, B.J. 2003.** Bryogeographical relationships of the mosses of Sri Lanka. *J. Hatt. Bot. Lab.* **93**: 293-304.

Bryological Research at Göttingen : ongoing projects in tropical bryology, 2004

Dept. of Systematic Botany, University of Göttingen (head: Prof. S. R. Gradstein)

Research activities in Göttingen are focused on systematics (1), mainly of tropical hepatic families and genera, and ecological and floristic studies (2). Below a summary of the current research projects and students in this research team is presented.

1. Systematics

Lejeuneaceae

- Revision of the genus *Lejeunea* for FLORA NEOTROPICA, **Elena Reiner-Drehwald**.
- World monograph of the genus *Prionolejeunea*. **Anna Luiza Ilkiu-Borges**, Ph.D. thesis.
- Molecular phylogeny of the genera of Lejeuneaceae, **Rosemary Wilson**, Ph.D. thesis.
- Molecular phylogeny of the genus *Bryopteris*. **Florian Hartmann**, M.Sc. thesis.

Plagiochilaceae (Jochen Heinrichs and students)

- Molecular phylogeny of Plagiochilaceae at world level. **Henk Groth**, Ph.D. thesis; **Melanie Lindner**, M.Sc. thesis.
- Revision of Plagiochilaceae for FLORA NEOTROPICA, **Jochen Heinrichs**.

Herbertaceae

- Molecular phylogeny of the genus *Herbertus* in tropical America, **Katrin Feldberg**, M.Sc. thesis.

Acrobolbaceae

- Revision of the genus *Tylimanthus* in the Tropics, **Michael Burghardt**, M.Sc. thesis.

Frullaniaceae

- World monograph of *Frullania* subgen. *Meteoriopsis*, **Jaime Uribe**, Ph.D. thesis.

2. Ecology and floristics

Ecuador

- Human impact on the diversity of cryptogamic epiphytes in montane forests of southern Ecuador, **Nicole Nöske**, Ph.D. thesis.
- Cryptogamic diversity of upper montane forests of southern Ecuador in relation to climate and soil, **Nicole Mandl**, Ph.D. thesis.
- Catalogue of the Liverworts and Hornworts of Ecuador. **Rob Gradstein** together with **Suzanne León-Yanez** (Quito) and **Caroline Wegner** (Göttingen).

Indonesia: Sulawesi

- Diversity of cryptogamic epiphytes as a function of land use intensity in Central Sulawesi. Simone Sporn and Nunik, PhD thesis.
- Catalogue of the Bryophytes of Sulawesi. **Rob Gradstein** together with **Ben Tan** (Singapore) and students.

French Guiana

- Guide to the Plants of Central French Guiana. Part 4: Liverworts and Hornworts. **Rob Gradstein** (text) and **Anna Luiza Ilkiu Borges** (illustrations). This project will start in the autumn of 2004.

For a listing of our publications in tropical bryology and other titles please consult our homepage: www.gwdg.de/~sysbot

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Books

Mosses and Liverworts of Kenya, Min S. Chuah-Petiot. Published in Nov. 2003.

In this publication 359 species of bryophyte from Kenya are treated, each with a line drawing. The book is 17.3 x 25.6 cm in size and consists of 273 pages. It can be ordered from these two sources: 1) Librairie René Thomas, 28 rue des Fossés Saint-Bernard – 75005, Paris, France. Email: librairie.thomas@wanadoo.fr (credit card payments accepted); 2) koeltz@t-online.de (VISA, American Express, Master/Eurocard payments accepted).

If anyone is aware of, or has published / reviewed other books of interest to TBG members, please send the details, book titles or your reviews to the TBG coordinator (address below).

Coordinator: **Michelle J. Price**,

Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève, Case Postale 60, CH-1292 Chambésy-GE, Switzerland.

Tel: 022 418 5148 (International +41 22 418 5148) email: Michelle.Price@cjb.ville-ge.ch

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