

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY
TROPICAL BRYOLOGY GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Edited by Joanna Wilbraham

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TBG MEETINGS

**British Bryological Society - Tropical
Bryology Group AGM**

12 September 2008

Present – Tom Blockeel, Jonathon Graham,
Nick Hodgetts, Howard Matcham, Chris Preston,
Jenny Rowntree, Robin Stevenson, Ray
Tangney, Jo Wilbraham, Malcolm Watling,
Apologies for absence – Liz Kungu

Agenda

Notes of the last AGM meeting. Accepted.

Matters arising.

1) Report on Taxonomic workshop on Réunion
Island

- Initial feedback on this meeting which
was held just a few weeks ago
[September 2008]

- The meeting was hosted by the
Université de la Réunion and La
Réunion Parc National.
- New and interesting records will be
published by the group in a series of
papers.
- A post-workshop project will also look
at a provisional bryophyte red data list
- Discussion of further involvement of the
TBG in the production of a moss flora for
the Mascarenes. Get in touch if you are
interested in contributing.
- More details of the project will be placed
on the TBG website

2) TBG website

The site has been renovated over the past year by
Jo Wilbraham, partly due to a change in web
design software but also to give a fresh look to
the site. The format has been somewhat updated
though the original content is still the same or
expanded. Please get in touch with Jo with any
comments / suggestions about development of
the website and ideas for content.

Any other business

- 1) Nick Hodgetts announced his revision of *Herbertus* in Africa is now in press.
- 2) Malcolm Watling gave a reminder that he is no longer contactable by email – see newsletter [News 2008] for Malcolm's postal address.

Place and date of next BBS-TBG AGM.

University of Sussex, 12th September 2009, following the BBS AGM meeting.

Action Points

AP 1) Jo Wilbraham to produce an account of the Réunion Island meeting for Field Bryology.

AP2) Réunion workshop participants to organise publication of new records for the island.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Moss checklist news

Brian O'Shea

The Natural History Museum, London

African checklist - The last version of the checklist of sub-Saharan Africa mosses was published in December 2006, and will be updated during the next year. The previous version contained some errors and omissions and hopefully these will be remedied. The major addition in the last edition was the inclusion of all African synonyms, which more than doubled the volume, but apart from additions and corrections, I'm not sure what else should be added. At present I'm thinking either of highlighting first collections for each species, and/or for highlighting all the African endemics.

Unfortunately these changes will have to be done manually, as the software used to produce the list was written about 15 years ago, and can no longer be adapted. Incidentally, if anyone has experience in MS Access and could assist in adapting an existing system, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Other checklists - In the last year or so we have been working on Indian checklists: one for Kerala (west coast of S. India) was completed quite quickly, but checklists for some of the larger areas are taking much longer: the Tamil Nadu checklist (east coast of S. India) is taking much longer, and a further checklist of Andaman & Nicobar (island in the Indian Ocean) is underway. All of these will be published as free pdf papers. (At present we have no space to add any more on the website, and we are waiting for extra space to be provided.)

Bryological news from Itambo Malombe

Itambo Malombe

National Museums of Kenya

I completed my PhD studies in bryology on 22nd April 2009 at the Koblenz Landau University, Germany. The title of my thesis was 'systematics of *Cheilolejeunea* (Spruce) Schiffn. (Lejeuneaceae) in continental Africa and its ecological significance in conservation of Kakamega and Budongo rainforests'. The supervisors were Prof. Tamas Pócs and Prof. Eberhard Fischer.



Cheilolejeunea sp. photographed on Réunion Island

Currently, I am implementing a project on epiphyllous bryophytes in Taita Hills, Kenya, funded by International Foundation for Science. The distribution of such species is almost entirely dependent on the amount of atmospheric humidity. There is a paucity of scientific information on the diversity and distribution of epiphyllous bryophytes in Kenyan ecosystems and tropical Africa in general, yet these species are important indicators of climatic change.

Bryophytes of Uganda in the Natural History Museum, London (BM)

Len Ellis, Curator of Bryophytes

The Natural History Museum, London

Over 1000 unidentified bryophyte collections from Uganda are held in the Natural History Museum. The majority of these were collected in 1961 by Francis Rose and by EM Lind in the 1950's. They await determination so that they may be incorporated into the bryophyte herbarium (BM) and made readily accessible for further research.

With the aid of travel expenses provided through the BBS Bequest Fund, Mr Howard Matcham has undertaken to regularly visit BM over the next year or so, in order to identify these Ugandan bryophytes. New, or otherwise important records will be reported in the *Journal of Bryology*. The identification of these specimens will make a significant contribution to the TBG's investigation of the bryophyte flora of Uganda.

MEETINGS & EXPEDITIONS

Update on the TBG taxonomic workshop on La Réunion in September 2008

Jo Wilbraham

In September 2008, a team of 17 bryologists, mostly members of the BBS - Tropical Bryology Group, assembled on La Réunion for two weeks to participate in a taxonomic workshop and field meeting hosted by the Université de la Réunion and La Réunion Parc National. The aim of this taxonomic workshop was to bring together bryologists researching the bryophyte flora of the Mascarenes.



The tropical leafy liverwort Pleurozia gigantea

The workshop was a mix of sessions based at the university which involved testing identification keys on fresh specimens; participant led seminars presenting recent taxonomic work on a family or genus and fieldwork to make collections of bryophytes from under-surveyed areas on the

island. An important aspect of the meeting was the bryological fieldwork with local botanists and conservation managers who were interested in learning more about the diverse bryophyte flora of the island.



Early colonisation of the Piton de la Fournaise lava flows

The attendees of this meeting were Claudine Ah-Peng, Roger Lala Andriamiarisoa, Jacques Bardat, Ida Bruggeman-Nannenga, Len Ellis, Terry Hedderson, Itambo Malombe, Howard Matcham, Tamás Pócs, Ron Porley, Ana Seneca, Lars Söderstrom, Pierre Stamenoff, Dominique Strasberg, Benito Tan, Jo Wilbraham and Nicholas Wilding. Our group represented a wide array of countries which included France, Hungary, Kenya, Madagascar, the Netherlands, Norway, La Réunion, Singapore, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Much work has already been achieved on recording the bryophyte diversity of La Réunion and an extensive database of distribution records, maintained by Pierre Stamenoff, is being further expanded by the recording efforts of this meeting. The new and interesting species records for La Réunion will be published in a

series of papers. We are also working towards a provisional 'red list' for the bryophytes of La Réunion and we hope that this will highlight the bryophyte species most in need of conservation and also indicate important areas for bryophytes on the island.

Further details about the bryophytes of La Réunion can be found on the BBS - Tropical Bryology Group website at:
http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/bbstbg/masc_arenas.htm
Or see: Wilbraham, J. 2009. Bryophytes & Volcanoes: La Réunion Island. *Field Bryology* 97(1): 24-31.

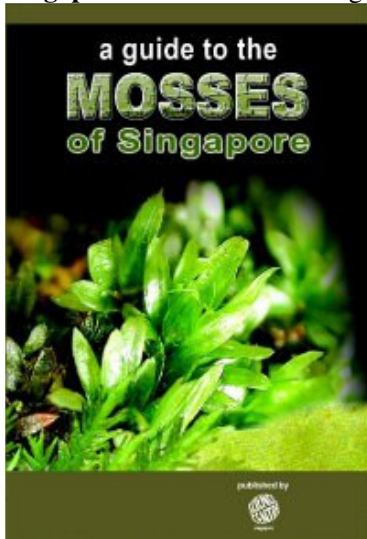
PUBLICATIONS

Recent Tropical Bryology Publications

- If you have recent publications which you would like to be included in this section, please send the reference to J. Wilbraham at any time.

Books

Tan, B.C. & B.-C. Ho (photography by Y.-H. Lim). 2008. **A guide to the mosses of Singapore**. Science Centre Singapore, 149 pp.



A small pocket-sized guidebook on the mosses of Singapore. Anyone who is interested could try to contact the publisher directly. See <http://www.science.edu.sg/ssc/contact.jsp>

Journal articles

Ah-Peng, C., Bardat, J., Strasberg, D., Stieperaere, H. 2009. **Additions to the bryoflora of Réunion Island 2: Anthocerotopsida, Marchantiopsida and Jungermanniopsida from the herbarium of the National Botanic Garden of Belgium**. *Journal of Bryology* 30 (3): 185-191

Asthana, G., Shukla, A. 2009. **Two epiphyllous species of *Drepanolejeunea* (Spruce) Schiffn.**

new to the Indian bryoflora. *Journal of Bryology* 31 (2): 139-142

Atwood, J.J. 2009. **A taxonomic revision of *Schlotheimia* subg. *Stegotheca* (Orthotrichaceae)**. *The Bryologist*: 112 (2): 290-300

Bruggeman-Nannenga, M.A. 2009. **Two new African *Fissidens* (subgenus *Aloma*): *F. costivelatus* and *F. curticosatus***. *Journal of Bryology* 31 (2): 120-124

Câmara, P.E.A.S. 2007. **A new species of *Taxithelium* (Sematophyllaceae) from Seram, Indonesia**. *The Bryologist*: 112 (3): 589-592

Cano, M.J., Jiménez, J.A. 2009. ***Indusiella* (Ptychomitriaceae) in South America**. *The Bryologist*: 112 (2): 308-314

Costa, D. P. da. & N. D. dos Santos, Jiří Váňa. 2008. **A New Species of *Cylindrocolea* (Cephaloziellaceae) from Brazil**. *Bryologist* 111 (4): 667-669

Engel, J.J. 2009. **Studies on Lophocoleaceae (Hepaticae). XVIII. Stolonivector Engel in New Zealand, including two new species, together with comments on generic endemism of Austral Hepaticae**. *Nova Hedwigia* 88: 335-346

Engel, J.J., Glenny, D. 2008. **Austral Hepaticae 44. A revision of *Marsupidium* Mitt. for New Zealand**. *Nova Hedwigia*: 87: 277-313

Frahm, J-P., O'Shea, B.J., Ho, B-C. 2009. **The Moss Flora of Mauritius**. Volume 51 from www.archive-for-brology.com
The mosses reported from Mauritius were compiled from the literature and are listed here with localities and references. The list includes 238 species. A summary of the bryological exploration of the island is given.

Gallego, M.T., Cano, M.J., Guerra, J. 2009. **New synonymy in *Syntrichia* (Pottiaceae) in the Neotropics.** *Bryologist* 112 (1): 173-177

Hodgetts, N.G. 2009. **A morphological revision of the genus *Herbertus* S.Gray (Herbertaceae, Marchantiophyta) in Africa, including the East African islands.** *Journal of Bryology* 30 (4): 239-263
Includes description of three new species of Herbertus.

Luna, E de. 2009. **Typification, taxonomy and distribution of *Braunia squarrolosa* (Hedwigiaceae) in Mexico and Central America.** *Bryologist* 112 (1): 202-207

Ignatov, M., Wigginton, M.J., Kuznetzova, O.I. & Huttenen, S. 2009. **Bryophytes of St Helena, South Atlantic Ocean. 3. *Sainthelenia*, a new genus of Brachytheciaceae (Bryophyta).** *Arctoa* 17: 91-100.
The endemic Brachythecium athrocladum is assigned to the new genus Sainthelenia.

Olson, S.L. 2009. ***Pireella cymbifolia* (Pterobryaceae) new to the flora, with comments on sea level and other factors influencing the phytogeography of Bermuda.** *Journal of Bryology* 30 (3): 224-226(3)

Schill, D.B., Long, D.G. & Köckinger, H. 2008. **Taxonomy of *Mannia controversa* (Marchantiidae, Aytoniaceae) including a new subspecies from East Asia.** *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* 65: 35-47.

Singh, D.K., Singh, D. 2009. **Rediscovery of *Calypogeia aeruginosa* Mitt. (Hepaticae: Calypogeiaceae) - a long lost liverwort from Sikkim, India.** *Journal of Bryology* 30 (3): 229-231

Singh, D.K., Singh, D. 2009. ***Saccogynidium Grolle* (Hepaticae: Geocalycaceae) - a new generic record for Indian Bryoflora.** *Journal of Bryology* 31 (1): 50-54

Townsend, C. 2009. **The genus *Ctenidiadelphus* M. Fleisch. (Hypnaceae) new to Sri Lanka, with typification of two specific names and a reduction to synonymy.** *Journal of Bryology* 30 (3): 223-224

Townsend, C. 2009. ***Campylopodiella dorotheae* sp. nov., a genus and species new to Africa.** *Journal of Bryology* 31 (2): 127-129

Vilas B-B., Silvana B. 2009. ***Hypnella symphyodontoides* (Bryophyta: Pilotrichaceae), a new species from Brazil.** *Journal of Bryology* 31 (1): 20-22

Váňa J, Long DG. 2008. ***Hamatostrepta concinna* gen. et sp. nov. (Jungermanniopsida, Lophoziaaceae). a new Asiatic leafy liverwort from the Sino-Burmese border.** *Fieldiana Botany* 47: 133-138.

Vaz-Imbassahy, T. de., Costa, D.P. da. 2008. **The Pilotrichaceae (Hookeriales) of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.** *Bryologist* 111 (4): 551-575

Wilbraham, J. 2008. **Bryophyte Flora of Uganda. 8. Orthotrichaceae, Part 1. Macromitrioideae.** *Journal of Bryology* 30: 201-207

Wilbraham, J. 2008. **New synonymy and typification in African *Schlotheimia* (Musci: Orthotrichaceae).** *Journal of Bryology* 30: 196-200.

BBS-TBG Website Update

Recent additions to the TBG website comprise an expanded project page for the 'Bryophytes of the Mascarenes', including an introduction to this geographic region, an account of the 2008 meeting, a current checklist [to be updated soon] and a photo gallery.

The addition of a visitor statistics tool in May 2009 has provided interesting information on the user base of the website. During the last 4 months the website has had 218 visitors from 33 countries.



Location of visitors to the website (May-August 2009)

Visit the website at:

www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/bbstbg

NOTICEBOARD

An opportunity to study tropical bryophytes at Nectandra Cloud Forest in Costa Rica, with Dan Norris

The Jepson Herbarium of the University of California, Berkeley has, for many years, offered a broad variety of weekend courses, most of which emphasize identification of plants and/or fungi (<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops>). Recently, we have broadened our coverage to several longer duration courses in areas distant from California (Hawaii and New Zealand). We are now considering a course in tropical bryology to be offered on the Nectandra Cloud Forest near San Ramon in Alajuela Province, Costa Rica (see: <http://www.nectandra.org/index.htm>). If adequate enrolment (about 15) is achieved, the course will be taught by Dr. Dan Norris of the University Herbarium, UC Berkeley, possibly in cooperation with a Costa Rican bryologist.

Evelyne and David Lennette, originally from Berkeley, California, developed the Nectandra Institute to host conservation oriented groups. The Forest includes a meeting centre and a laboratory in an otherwise pristine forest of about a square mile. It is bounded on three sides by grazing land but it abuts on one side with large tracts of pristine forest. Excellent accommodation both for food and sleeping arrangements are planned. During this course, we plan to walk on and near the about 5 miles of excellent and easy trails on the Nectandra forest, and we plan trips, with collecting possibilities, to high elevation lands within only a few hours drive. There is an excellent catalogue of the

biota of the forest with special coverage of ferns and vascular plants.

Participants in the course will work with completed keys written by Norris for the liverworts, hornworts and mosses that he has documented for the Nectandra Cloud Forests. Field collecting trips will take us to all parts of the Nectandra Forest. We anticipate that participants will be able to send materials collected during the course to home herbaria. The goal of the course is to prepare participants to do field recognition of the major genera of mosses, liverworts and hornworts of the Costa Rican cloud forest. Skills in laboratory identification to species are also predicted.

We are surveying the bryological community to determine whether there is adequate interest in such a course. We see two possibilities in terms of times to offer this course in 2010. We would like to plan for a time in March or April because of a pattern of lower rainfall. In the summer, more people will be free but, during that time, heavy rainfall will enforce morning trips followed by afternoon laboratory work. All seasons have pleasant temperatures that range primarily in the 60's to 70's F. Because a trip to distant Costa Rica should be of sufficient duration to allow serious learning, we would schedule 11 days for the course with 2 free days inserted so that each 3 planned days of study are followed by a free day. The price of the class will be about \$1500 (course, lodging and meals) plus air fare. To register interest: inform Cecile Shohet at cshohet@berkeley.edu, indicating 2010 spring or summer preference.

Contributions to TBG newsletters

The TBG newsletter relies 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. Digital photographs accompanying articles are also very welcome.

Please send your contributions for future TBG newsletters, at any time, to the coordinator (details below).

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