

The Bryological Times
January 1980, Number 1
Table of Contents:

Editorial. By S.W. Greene	1
Senior Curator at Helsinki: Dr. Teuvo Ahti nominated, Dr. Timo Koponen acting.....	1
Does <i>Sphagnum subfulvum</i> Sjörs = <i>S. nitidum</i> Warnst? By Hugo Sjörs, Institute of Ecological Botany	2
Start of Type Register at the British Museum. By A. Eddy, A.J. Harrington, L.T. Ellis, Botany Dept British Museum	2
The Writer, as Book Review Editor for the Bryologist. Send to Ronald A. Pursell, Buckhout Laboratory	2
Geneve Workshop Proceedings: Send article to Dr. S.W. Greene	3
Identification of Tropical Mosses. By Dana Griffin III.....	3
A Geographical Puzzle: Max Fleisher. By W. Schultze-Motel, Botanischer Garten Und Museum.....	3
Courses, Kindrogan Field Centre: Info from B.S. Brookes.....	3
Progress with Index Iconum Muscorum. By Ronald A. Pursell.....	3
Bryophyte Conservation in Britain: Send to P.D. Coker, School of Biological Sciences, Thames Polytechnic	4
Deaths: Bizot, M. age 74.....	4
Desiderata: C. Skottsberg; Celina M. Matteri; Dr. Timo Koponen; Ronald A. Pursell ...	4
Recent Publications: Greene, S.W. and A.J. Harrington. Clarke, G.C.S. and J.G. Duckett	4
Delgadillo to Jalapa: Dr. C. Delgadillo, Instituto de Biología, Natl Univ of Mexico	5
Field Trips: B.O. Van Zanten	5
Papua New Guinea 1981: Contact B.O. Van Zanten, Biological Centre, Dept of Botany, Netherlands	5
Future Meetings: 26-29 June, Poznań, Poland, Info Dr. Jerzy Szweykowski, Dept. of Genetics, Adam Mickiewicz University. 17-24 July, Vancouver, Canada, Info W.B. Schofield, Dept of Botany, University of British Columbia	5
Letters to the Editor: Can <i>Bryangium</i> Be Accepted? By G. Dihoru, Institute of Biological Sciences, Bucharest	6
Exchange and Mart: Request by Celina M. Matteri. Request by S.W. Greene	6
Items for the Next Issue, Send to Dr. S.W. Greene	6

THE BRYOLOGICAL TIMES

Newsletter of the International Association of Bryologists

January, 1980.

No. 1

Editorial

THE start of a new venture always brings moments for optimism and this occasion was no exception. All of the items in this issue were received in response to the IAB Announcement - circulated to all bryologists listed in the Directory of bryologists and bryological research, Edition 2 - that a Newsletter was being started. Thus the belief that bryologists would welcome and support a means of easy intercommunication on practical everyday issues, first discussed during the recent IAB Taxonomic Workshop Meeting in Genève where the idea received immediate and enthusiastic response, seems to have been well founded.

It is true that brief news items appear in the standard bryological journals, as well as in the IAB Bulletin, but none appear as frequently as every two months, try to be comprehensive or cater for advertisements of books or back issues of journals wanted or for sale (see Exchange and Mart). There is also the increasing tendency for journals to use space for scientific articles which was formerly given to news items. Thus it seems that a Newsletter, appearing sufficiently regularly and frequently to contain up to the minute news and concentrating on practical issues, has a role to play.

The contributions in this first issue cover a range of topics. The location of types can be both time-consuming and troublesome and no less than 4 items relate to this topic. One of them is part of an article dealing with the identity of *Sphagnum subfulvum* which raises a number of issues which will be familiar to all readers. It is to be hoped that members of IAB will take the opportunity which the Newsletter gives to debate through its columns many of the bryological issues which trouble and perplex us from day to day.

Some of the replies will go, quite properly, only to the person initiating the request so the statement of a problem in these columns is all that most of us will know about that item. As some answers may be of more general interest it is hoped to be able to reproduce these. Thus from the present issue,

the identity and whereabouts of Eumondi (see A Geographical Puzzle) will be of concern to anyone who has worked with Fleischer's material, while the views of bryologists at large on the Bryangium issue (expounded in a Letter to the Editor) is an example of an item likely to be of interest to a substantial part of the readership.

In the IAB Announcement it was stated: "The purpose of the Newsletter is to keep people up to date with bryological activities in all parts of the world and to provide a means of seeking help with the solution of everyday bryological problems". It is this emphasis on help with everyday problems, combined with information which is essentially transient in nature, which will distinguish items in these columns from those in the IAB Bulletin or the standard journals. Anything which in the Editor's opinion would be better placed elsewhere will be returned to authors for reconsideration. For example particular care will be taken to see that items are not accepted which contain new combinations or anything which is likely to give rise to nomenclatural problems. Thus, while every effort will be made to avoid overlap with existing channels of communication, and in particular with the IAB Bulletin, all possible opportunities will be taken to develop and provide a worth-while news sheet.

The material for this issue came to hand easily. If the venture of a bi-monthly Newsletter is to survive and prosper, then it will require the support of all the membership and a constant stream of topical articles, news items, comment, desiderata etc. will be 'grist to the mill' in the production of The Bryological Times.

SENIOR CURATOR AT HELSINKI

THE Senior Curator of the Cryptogamic Herbarium, Botanical Museum, University of Helsinki, Dr. Teuvo Ahti has been nominated as an Extraordinem Professor of Cryptogamic Botany (Systematics) in Helsinki University as from 1 December, 1979. Dr. Timo Koponen will be acting as Senior Curator until a successor has been appointed to this vacant position.

Does *Sphagnum subfulvum* Sjörs
= *S. nitidum* Warnst?

Sphagnum subfulvum Sjörs was described in the 4th issue of *Svensk bot. Tidskr* No. 38 (1944, but printed and published in early 1945). Since at that time Sweden was still isolated because of the war, the study was founded on material in Swedish herbaria only. Later I had the opportunity to go through the Helsinki herbarium, where many additional localities are documented, but due to other work, no additions to the publication appeared. Moreover, two old specimens may need some confirmation, since the species has not been re-found nor has, to my knowledge, any re-examination been made of duplicates. These two localities are: (i) Switzerland, Grisons (Graubünden), S. Bernhardin, M. Jäggl 1920, *Bryotheca ticinensis* s. nom. *S. teres* v. *subteres* (ex. in herb. Gothenburgh). The specimen seen was somewhat small-leaved, otherwise hardly aberrant from northern *S. subfulvum*. (ii) Wales, Carnarvon Co. "prope Llaberis" H. Boswell 1876 (ex. in herb. Uppsala).

Later, *S. subfulvum* has been reported for N.E. North America and (probably) Japan, and its known distribution in Greenland, Norway and the USSR has been amplified. But since I have not been much active as a bryologist for a long period, I have almost certainly overlooked reports, and remained ignorant of new collections. So my request is for letters, reprints or other information on any subject related to *S. subfulvum*, including specimens for examination, if possible.

I would also like to locate specimens of *Sphagnum nitidum* Warnst., which in all likelihood is conspecific with *S. subfulvum* and then obviously should replace this later name. *S. nitidum* was described by C. Warnstorf in 1895 ("Beiträge zur Kenntnis exotischer Sphagna", *Allg. bot. Z.* and also in 1911 ("Sphagnales-Sphagnaceae" or "Sphagnologia universalis", *Das Pflanzenreich*, Leipzig). The specimens of *S. nitidum* came from Newfoundland (Waghorne) and New Hampshire (Taxon No. 293, herb. Eaton). Since I did not dare, in 1944, to include North America in the distribution area of *S. subfulvum* being of course unable to check, and since the drawings by Warnstorf are of poor quality and his descriptions quite indistinct, I have to leave open the question of conspecificity (p.419). But I would be most grateful for help. It is possible that the specimens have been re-named, e.g. as *S. flavicomans*, *S. plumulosum* or *S. subnitens*.

A third problem is whether *S. subfulvum* (= *S. nitidum*?) behaves as a distinct species everywhere. Using mixed populations I was able to show distinct differences from "*S. plumulosum*" (= *S. subnitens* s. str.) but some later collections I have made to the south of the main distribution area in Sweden show a somewhat intermediate appearance and are to be re-examined. Also F. Björkbäck of the Riksmuseum (S) in Stockholm, using biometrical methods, has demonstrated considerable overlap (just as Hill has recently shown for *S. nemoreum* and *S. rubellum* in Britain, the two being well separable elsewhere, at least in Fennoscandia). Such differing behaviour in different areas, perhaps due to introgressive hybridization or showing remnants of an original status before genetical splitting would be very interesting though difficult to study.

Hugo Sjörs. Institute of Ecological Botany, Box 559, S-751 22 Uppsala, Sweden.

START OF TYPE REGISTER AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

AN on-going project, recently begun by staff of the Bryophyte Section of the British Museum (Natural History), is the production of a catalogue of type (and possible type) specimens of mosses in the Museum's herbarium (BM, but also including bryophytes formerly at K). The first stage, the compilation of a card index, has been completed for the genera *Andreaea*, *Astomiopsis*, *Blindia*, *Bruchia*, *Cladophascum*, *Cladastomum*, *Ditrichum*, *Garckea*, *Microdus*, *Pleuridiella*, *Pleuridium*, *Pringleella*, *Pseudophemerum*, *Trematodon* and *Wilsoniella*. Enquiries from bryologists having a working interest in these genera are welcome, as will be any suggestions or corrections from the resulting feedback.

A. Eddy; A.J. Harrington; L.T. Ellis.
Botany Department, British Museum
(Natural History), Cromwell Road, London
SW7 5BD, England.

THE WRITER, AS BOOK REVIEW EDITOR FOR the *Bryologist*, is interested in compiling a list of European bryologists willing to write reviews, particularly of those publications concerned with the liverworts and mosses (and also lichens) of Europe. Reviews will be accepted in English, French, German or Spanish. Please send your name to: Ronald A. Pursell, Buckhout Laboratory, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA, 16802.

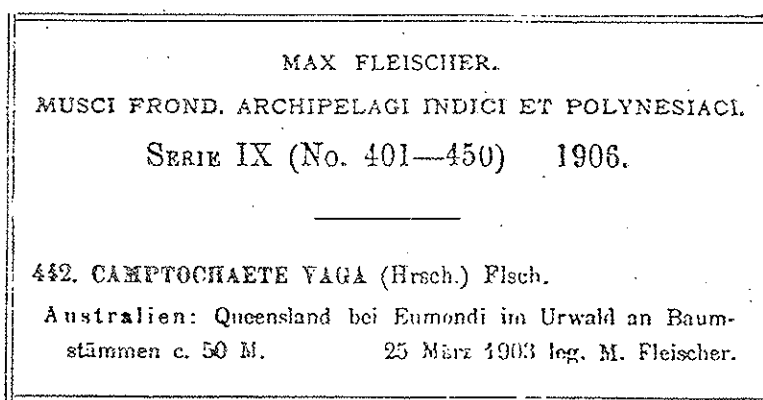
GENEVE WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

IDENTIFICATION OF TROPICAL MOSSES

THE editors would like to remind contributors that the deadline for sending in articles was the 31 December 1979. At the time of writing (18 December) material for 3 sessions only has arrived in Penicuik and it is feared that some will be late. If we do not adhere to the deadline for sending material to Genève for typesetting (31 March 1979) then it may be that we will lose our place in the publishing queue! So please, if you are a late contributor, do send your article(s) as quickly as possible, via your session secretary, to Dr. S.W. Greene.

THE Bryophyte and Lichen Herbarium, University of Florida, 206 Florida State Museum, Museum Road, Gainesville, Florida USA 32611 is seeking actively moss collections from tropical America for floristic and taxonomic investigations. Readers having moss collections from the American tropics which they would like identified are encouraged to send material to the above address. There will be no charge for this service. However it is hoped that wherever possible, a duplicate specimen may be deposited in FLAS. Dana Griffin III, Curator.

A GEOGRAPHICAL PUZZLE



IN 1903 Max Fleischer visited Australia. During his stay in Queensland he collected mosses inter alia near a place "Eumondi". Some of this material was distributed in his "Musci Frond. Archipelagi Indici et Polynesiaci" (e.g. 442. *Camptochaete vaga* - see facsimile). I have tried in vain to find Eumondi on the maps available to me. Because I have some more material (unidentified

mosses) from Fleischer's Eumondi collection I would like to know exactly where this place is. I suppose it is somewhere in the surroundings of Brisbane. Can anybody help me?

W. Schultze-Motel. Botanischer Garten und Museum, Berlin-Dahlem, Königen-Luise Strasse 6-8, D-1000, BERLIN 33.

Courses

A WEEK'S Residential Course on bryophytes will be held at Kindrogan Field Centre, Perthshire from 1-8 October, 1980. It will be particularly valuable for beginners who wish to learn the rudiments of bryology and concentrate on the subject without distractions for a few days. For the same reason it is a useful course for those who wish to follow up a particular group of bryophytes and can't usually find time to do so. The fee is £63 inclusive of full board and accommodation. Further information from the Warden, B.S. Brookes, Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire PH10 7PG, Scotland.

PROGRESS WITH INDEX ICONUM MUSCORUM

THE Index Iconum Muscorum, compiled by William R. Buck of the New York Botanical Garden, and Ronald A. Pursell of the Pennsylvania State University, is expected to be ready for publication in two years' time. This work will include references to line drawings and photographs of all mosses, including *Sphagnum*, published in floras, journals, manuals and monographs from 1801 through 1980. Habitat photographs, drawings and micrographs of chromosomes, and transmission electron micrographs will not be indexed. There will be no attempt to make taxonomic decisions; illustrations will be indexed by the names under which they were published.

Ronald A. Pursell.

BRYOPHYTE CONSERVATION IN BRITAIN

AS many bryologists are aware changes in habitat, as a result of land reclamation, pollution and other environmental factors, have contributed to the decline of a number of species of bryophytes over the past few decades and many localities, formerly rich in species, are now of much reduced interest. Additionally, recreational pressures and the collection of material for educational and horticultural purposes pose a threat to other sites and species.

Three years ago the British Bryological Society appointed a Conservation Officer and a Conservation committee was set up to prepare a Code of Conduct for bryologists. The Code has been widely circulated in the British Isles since its production in 1978. Other tasks undertaken by the committee include the collection of data on species of restricted occurrence in Britain (on the same principle as used in the preparation of the Red Data Books) and the collation and circulation to national and local conservation organisations of a list of bryologically important sites. These two tasks are now almost complete and the committee (consisting of Professor P.W. Richards, Dr. A. Bebbington, Dr. H.J.B. Birks, Mr. D.G. Long and Dr. P.D. Coker) will shortly be investigating the possibility of computer storage of species and habitat data, which would enable us to update our lists much more readily than at present. It is also fortunate that we have the cooperation of many experienced bryologists and close liaison with the Nature Conservancy Council and the Society for the Promotion of Nature Conservation.

In view of the likely interest in bryophyte conservation outside the British Isles, the Conservation Officer would be glad to offer advice and the benefit of our experience to any society or group with an interest in conserving the bryophyte flora of its home area. We can also send copies of our Code of Conduct. Requests should be sent to: Dr. P.D. Coker, School of Biological Sciences, Thames Polytechnic, Wellington Street, London SE18 6PF, England.

Deaths

BIZOT, M. on the 19th November, 1979, aged 74 years.

Desiderata

I WOULD appreciate receiving information on the location of the type specimen of the moss *Philibertiella ditrichoidea* Card. from Chile, Chiloé, Ancud et Quellon, ad rupes litoreas, leg. C. Skottsberg.

I would also greatly appreciate information on herbaria holding authentic material of mosses collected by Carlos Spegazzini in Southern Patagonia, Staten Island, and Tierra del Fuego in 1882 and determined by Carl Müller of Halle.

Celina M. Matteri. Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Avda A. Gallardo 470, 1405 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

DR. TIMO KOPONEN, Botanical Museum, University of Helsinki, is currently working on a synopsis of European Mniaceae, which will include North Africa and the Near East since the Mniaceae flora in these areas is essentially European. Only very scanty North African material has been seen so far and he would be delighted to study any specimens of Mniaceae collected in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and especially from the Canary Islands and Madeira.

I WOULD like to obtain a xerox copy of the description of *Hypnum mertensii* Weinmann published in Bulletin de la Société Imperiale des Naturalistes de Moscou, Volume 18 (4): 489-489, 1845.

Ronald A. Pursell, Buckhout Laboratory, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA, USA 16802.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Greene, S.W. & A.J. Harrington, 1979. The bryological literature of Africa, together with some Atlantic and Indian Ocean Islands. In Greene, S.W. and A.J. Harrington, Eds. A conspectus of bryological taxonomic literature, Series A (Geographical) Fasc. 1. 141pp. Penicuik, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. Available from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Bush Estate, Penicuik, Midlothian, EH26 0QB, Scotland. Price £5 inclusive of postage.

Clarke, G.C.S. & J.G. Duckett, 1979. Bryophyte systematics. London and New York, Academic Press. 582 pp. Price £40. This is the proceedings of an international Symposium held at the University College of North Wales, Bangor August 1978.

DELGADILLO TO JALAPA

DR. C. DELGADILLO, a bryologist on the staff of Instituto de Biología, National University of Mexico, is spending a sabbatical year, until 1 October 1980, with Instituto de Investigaciones sobre Recursos Bióticos (INIREB) in Jalapa, Veracruz, México. He will be developing a bryological program and preparing a catalogue of the mosses of Veracruz.

Field Trips

B.O. VAN ZANTEN (Biological Centre, Department of Botany, P.O. box 14, 9750AA, Haren, Netherlands) is making a collecting trip to the Philippines in connection with the projected new moss flora of the Philippines (see Bulletin of Bryology XII, in *Taxon* 26(4): 481, 1977). It is planned to visit the following islands: Luzon, Polillo, Mindoro, Palawan and Mindanao. The trips will be organised by R.M. del Rosario who will also participate in the fieldwork, together with a number of local and foreign bryologists (i.a. H. Deguchi, N. Nichimura and A. von Hübschmann).

Anyone with desiderata from the area can write to B.O. van Zanten c/o R.M. del Rosario, Philippine National Herbarium, Rizal Park, Manila, Philippines till the middle of February.

Please indicate as precisely as possible the material requested, for example by sending a small voucher specimen of the species or drawings, description, habitat and/or locality information.

PAPUA - NEW GUINEA 1981

DURING the IAB Workshop Meeting in Geneva 1979 the possibility was discussed of organising, under the auspices of the 13th International Botanical Congress, to be held at Sydney, Australia, 21-28 August, 1981 a pre-congress bryological trip to Papua - New Guinea. The organisation of such a trip is very time consuming and before starting to make arrangements it is necessary to know the numbers of those who would participate. It is planned to visit bryologically interesting areas at different altitudes from lowland rainforest up to the alpine zone. For the trips into the mountains, good health is required as the terrain is arduous and accommodation will be primitive. For people who are not used to mountain climbing, the possibilities of alternative less strenuous tours can be investigated. Anyone interested in this trip is kindly requested to contact: B.O. van Zanten, Biological Centre, Dept. of Botany, P.O. Box 14, 9750 AA Haren (GRO), Netherlands, indicating a preference for the mountain trip or an easier alternative.

Future Meetings

A LIST of meetings planned for 1980 will appear in the *Bulletin of Bryology XVIII* but the following merit earlier notice.

26-29 June, Poznań, Poland.

This will be the second conference of the Eastern European Working-Group for Bryology and will be held under the sponsorship of the Adam Mickiewicz University and the Poznań branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

The programme will include a presentation of the methods and results of the Poznań group of bryologists and contributed papers on bryotaxonomy (first day) while the second day will be made up of discussions on bryogeography with further contributed papers. Days three and four will consist of a bryological excursion to the North Polish moraine region.

The cost for participants from outside of the socialist countries will be about 120 US dollars per person which will cover accommodation in student hostels and excursion costs.

Anyone intending to read a paper, participate in the excursion or wanting additional information should write to the chairman of the organising committee: Dr. Jerzy Szwejkowski, Department of Genetics, Adam Mickiewicz University, Dabrowskiego 165, 60-594 Poznań, Poland, before 31 January, 1980.

17-24 July, Vancouver, Canada.

The IAB is sponsoring a half-day symposium on "The ecological significance of morphological characters in bryophytes", during the forthcoming International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology (I.C.S.E.B. II). Speakers will include Rudolf M. Schuster on Jungermanniae, Dale H. Vitt on the sporophyte of mosses, Dr. Gert S. Mogensen on moss spores, and others to be announced. Wilfred B. Schofield will lead two bryological field trips to the Queen Charlotte Islands along the coast of British Columbia: one on 8-11 July (directly before the annual meeting of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society which will also be held in Vancouver) and the other on 23-26 July. These trips will each have a maximum of 20 participants. In addition, from 8-11 July, Dale Vitt will lead a bryological field trip in the Canadian Rockies, en route from Edmonton to Vancouver.

For further information write to: W.B. Schofield, Department of Botany, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver B.C. V6T 1W5, Canada.

Letters to the Editor

CAN BRYANGIUM BE ACCEPTED?

Dear Sir,

I recently joined a group of bryologists, although I have had more experience with higher plants. I noticed that in the field of muscology the scientific terminology is not in all cases the most suitable as sometimes terms with a well-defined content are missing. Personally, I did not find a corresponding (muscological) term to designate the groups of gametangia and the anexes. Generally they are cited differently by various investigators and the terms are borrowed from the morphology of higher plants e.g. "inflorescence", or "flower" Abramova et al. 1961, Watson 1963, namely "androecium" when there are only antheridia, or "gynoecium" when there are only archegonia. The term "sogametangium" seems more adequate but nonspecific (Lazarenko 1953, Melynichuk 1970); it becomes "perichaetium" when it contains only archegonia and "perigonium" when it contains only antheridia, with the respective covers i.e. the perichaetial and perigonial leaves.

I suggest that this organ, complex in structure (see Fig. 1) and placed terminally (acrocarpous mosses) or laterally (pleurocarpous mosses) on the stem, be called a Bryangium (the word deriving from a combination of bryophyte and gametangium). The term refers, therefore, to the specialised protective leaves, to the sexual organs - the gametangia - and to the paraphyses. A bryangium can be ♂, ♂, ♀. The protective leaves should be called bryangial leaves (♂, ♀).

We often wish to refer to this organ, which is of great taxonomic importance, by its structure and position on a plant and we do not have a suitable term such as "sporogonium" for example. When a plant does not have any sporogonia it would seem more natural to speak for example, of lateral bryangia instead of lateral inflorescences.

This is only a suggestion! What do others think?

Abramova, A. et al. 1961. Opredelitelny listostebelynykh mkhov Arktiki SSSR. Moskva-Leningrad.

Lazarenko, A. 1953. Opredelitelny listvennykh mkhov Ukraïny. Kiev.

Melynichuk, V. 1970. Opredelitelny listvennykh mkhov srednei polosy i yuga evropeiskoi chasty SSSR. Kiev.

Watson, E. 1963. British mosses and liverworts. Cambridge.

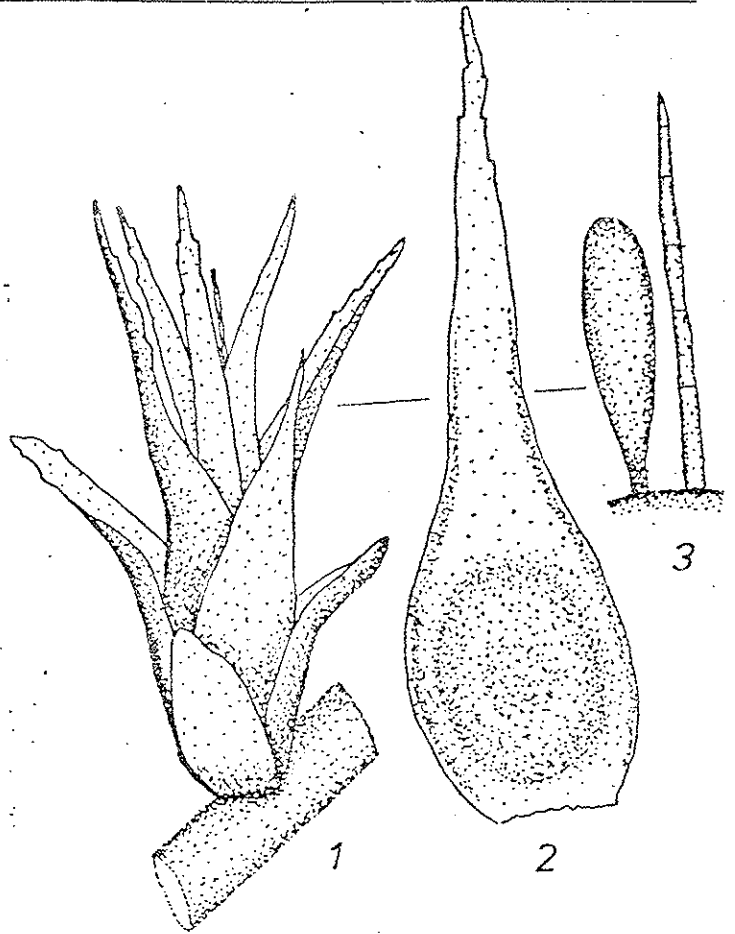


Fig. 1 *Rhynchostegium megapolitanum* (Bland.) B.S.G.

1. bryangium (50 x); 2. inner bryangial leaf ♂ (70 x); 3. antheridium and paraphyse (70 x).

Yours sincerely,

G. Dihoru,
Institute of biological sciences, Splaiul
Independentei 296, 77748 - Bucharest VI,
Romania.

EXCHANGE and MART

INFORMATION on booksellers, antiquarians or others offering for sale single parts of Grout, A.J. ed. Moss flora of North America, North of Mexico, Newfane, Vermont, would be appreciated. I am particularly interested in obtaining Vol. I, pts. 2, 3 and 4 and Vol. II, pt. 4.

Celina M. Matteri. Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Avda A. Gallardo 470, 1405 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Has anyone a copy of Novitates systematicae plantarum non vascularium, Vol. 1, 1964 for sale or exchange?

S.W. Greene. For address see below.

ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE to be with the Editor, Dr. S.W. Greene, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Bush Estate, Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 0QB, Scotland by 15 February at the latest.

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