

The Bryological Times  
September 1980, Number 5  
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# THE

# BRYOLOGICAL TIMES

Newsletter of the International Association of Bryologists

September, 1980

No. 5

## NOMINA SPECIFICA ET TYPI REJICIENDA

by G.G. Hässel de Menéndez

SOME OF THE very early nomenclatural types of Hepaticae (and probably of Musci, Algae and some other groups), whether represented in one or more herbaria, are little more than meaningless dried fragments of vegetable matter with little or no recognisable structure. This is often the case where a specimen consists of sterile plants collected from wet conditions which were pressed when drying, or a specimen was soaked when disinfected by immersion as used to be standard practice. Such types occur commonly within the thallose Hepaticae and to some degree also in the leafy groups. Today specimens of this sort from new collections would, rightly, be treated as "indeterminable" and go straight into the wastepaper basket. Nevertheless when such specimens are types they, and the taxa based on them, are protected by the rules of the International code of botanical nomenclature. But having tried to work with them one wonders how hepaticologists dare to assimilate these with other well-known taxa.

Article 7 of the 'Leningrad Code' (1978) defines all the categories of nomenclatural types and the rules for their use, while Article 14 and Articles 62-79 deal with the rejection or maintenance of names. But the Code gives no guidance on how to deal with these objectionable types and their associated names. They are not covered by Article 69 which states "A name must be rejected if it has been widely and persistently used for a taxon not including its type. Names thus rejected shall be placed on a list of *nomina rejicienda*. Equally, they were not covered by Articles 70 and 71 of the earlier 'Seattle Code' (1972) which were deleted in Leningrad. Only an official list of *nomina generica rejicienda* exists at the moment. It is the opinion of the author that acceptance of the principle of *nomina specifica rejicienda* would resolve the difficulty. As only a few names are based on such worthless types, as far as hepaticology is concerned,

no major changes should be necessary.

Would it not be worthwhile to test this idea by compiling a list of taxa based on types of the sort under discussion? At the same time consideration could be given to the introduction of a new category of type - the *typus rejectus*. Such types would consist of the original element on which a validly published taxon is based and which, in the absence of an adequate illustration and description, is useless because of its state of preservation and a source of confusion. A neotype, nor any other type, cannot be substituted for it. Many people have commented on this subject, for example Davis and Heywood (1967, 289 - 290) who remarked: "Confused specific names, however, can sometimes be rejected, but this should not be done unless there is a very strong case for it. Thorough research into the author's original description and specimens, etc. may establish the author's intentions and make further confusion unnecessary. If this, however, results in a reciprocal name switch, confusion is bound to result, and it seems to us a weakness in the Rules that such names are difficult to get rid of - though you may drop them, someone else is at liberty to reinstate them. It should be possible to reject names likely to become persistent sources of error and not wait until they have become such."

Through the columns of The Bryological Times a list could be circulated and one or more cases could be tested i.e. requests could be published for suggestions of likely taxa and for information regarding the existence and quality of the appropriate type(s). If one or two good cases can be substantiated (and there is sufficient evidence that others could too), and support is forthcoming from fellow bryologists, then the author would be willing to prepare a proposal for wider circulation in Taxon and submission to the Nomenclature Section of next year's International Botanical Congress in Sydney.

What do readers think?

Davis, P.H. and V.H. Heywood. 1967  
Principles of angiosperm taxonomy.

Edinburgh and London, Oliver & Boyd.  
558 pp.

Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales,  
"Bernardino Rivadavia", Avda Angel  
Gallardo 470, Casilla de Correo 10,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## MAPPING OF EUROPEAN BRYOPHYTES

### Working Group Established

FROM 31 MARCH TO 1 APRIL 1980 a small informal group of bryologists gathered in the Station scientifique des Hautes Fagnes, Belgium, at the invitation of its Director, Dr. R. Schumacker, to examine the present state of producing bryophyte distribution maps on a European scale. Participants were R. Duell (Germany); P. Szmajda (Poland); G. Dirkse and S.R. Gradstein (Netherlands) and Ph. Zuttere, E. Jacques, G. Raeymaekers and R. Schumacker (Belgium). The discussions were further supported by letters from F. Koppe, H. Breuer and G. Philippi (Germany); W. Rubers, A. Touw and H.J. During (Netherlands); A. Lecointe and B. Pierrot (France); J. Werner (Luxembourg) and J.L. de Sloover and J.R. de Sloover (Belgium). The following are some of the results and conclusions reached during the discussions:

- i. By mid-1980 a preliminary checklist for the bryophytes of Europe will be compiled by Dr. Duell and sent for revision and updating to specialists in various European countries.
- ii. By mid-1981 about 20 sample maps will be produced, using the UTM grid as employed by the Flora Europaea Committee for vascular plants (see Jalas & Suominen, Mem. Soc. Fauna Flora fenn. 43: 60-72, 1967).
- iii. An atlas of distribution maps of European bryophytes is to be produced on a long-term basis, preferably in conjunction with accurate illustrations of each species. Active collaboration of monographers would be highly important to ensure the success of this undertaking.

A secretariat for the working group ("Groupe de travail pour la cartographie des bryophytes en Europe") was established at the Station scientifique des Hautes Fagnes, with R. Schumacker acting as secretary. The secretariat will keep a running file

with vouchers or other relevant reference material on the distribution of bryophytes within Europe. All bryologists are kindly invited to inform the secretariat about existing published or unpublished floristic information relevant to the mapping project, especially data on the poorly known areas of Europe. Those willing to collaborate in the production of maps or wanting further information are also urged to write to the secretary who will be most grateful for any comments, criticism or suggestions . . . . . A more lengthy report of the meeting will be published in the Bulletin of Bryology.

The second meeting of the working group will take place in the Station scientifique des Hautes Fagnes on 1 and 2 November 1980. Those interested in participating should write to Dr. R. Schumacker, Station scientifique des Hautes Fagnes, B-4898 Mont Rigi, Robertville, Belgium.

## VISIT TO SUBANTARCTIC ISLAND

I RECENTLY spent 5½ months on sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island (lat. 54° 30'S, long. 158° 56'E) making extensive field studies and collections of mosses, hepatics and lichens. New moss records include *Fissidens rigidulus*, *Cheilothela chilensis*, *Ditrichum brevirostre*, *Bryerythrophyllum recurvirostrum*, *Funaria producta*, *Pohlia* aff. *wahlenbergii*, a *Grimmia* sp., and a *Tortula* sp. The moss flora now includes at least 74 species, of which 30% have been found with capsules. Numerous hepatics will be added to the checklist (Seppelt, 1977, Bryologist 80: 167-170). New records so far established occur for *Megaceros*, *Fossombronia*, *Riccardia*, *Noteroclada*, *Plagioclila* and *Chandonanthus* and there are many more. The lichen collections concentrated mainly on Parmeliaceae with 4 new *Parmelia* records. In all, approximately 2500 numbers were collected.

Due to shipping delays I was unable to accompany an expedition to Heard (lat. 53° 06'S, long. 73° 31'E.) and Macdonald (lat. 53° 03'S, long. 72° 35' E.) Islands. A collection of bryophytes and lichens was made for me and these are being worked up at the moment.

All specimens are currently housed in my private herbarium. The collections will be used to further my studies on the sub-Antarctic bryoflora and, in particular, my special interest in the Ditrichaceae.  
R.D. Seppelt.

Antarctic Division,  
Department of Science and the Environ-  
ment, 568 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne  
3004, Victoria, Australia.

## News from Poland

THE SECOND BRYOLOGICAL MEETING OF  
CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN BRYOLOGISTS

26-29 June 1980, Poznań

By William C. Steere

THE MEETING, convened by Professor Jerzy Szweykowski, consisted of formal sessions on June 26th and 27th in Paczowski Hall of the Adam Mickiewicz University and was followed by a two-day bryological excursion to northern Poland, June 28-29. Forty-three bryologists attended the meeting representing 13 countries mostly European but with colleagues from Cuba, Vietnam and USA.

The first session consisted of a well-rounded symposium, "Use of modern methods in bryotaxonomy" in which Professor Szweykowski and his staff presented the results of cultural, cytological, genetic, biometric, serological and biochemical research on several taxa of hepatics. Professor Szweykowski opened the symposium with an introduction to his overall programme, "Perspectives in bryotaxonomy" which was then illustrated by a number of case histories by different members of his staff.

Immediately after the last presentation, there was a tour of the Department of Genetics as well as a visit to the living cultures. Most delegates were astonished to find the greater part of a large glasshouse filled with very healthy cultures of *Conocephalum* and of several taxa and chromosome races of *Pellia*, both on the benches and below them, all growing on peat yet remarkably free from contamination by fungi or algae, despite their exposure to the atmosphere of the glasshouse. Many of us left the culture area and the Department of Genetics with the realization that relatively simple and inexpensive means exist for the investigation of basic and fundamental questions concerning the evolution of hepatics, as well as other plants.

The afternoon session, and the morning session of June 27th, consisted of papers presented by other participants in the conference.

Because invited speakers from Romania and the USSR were not able to attend, the long third session completed the formal presentations and the remainder of the afternoon was free. However, several carefully prepared posters displayed outside the auditorium illustrated still further topics or supplemented earlier presentations.

There were most enjoyable evening receptions for foreign delegates by Professor Lisowski and Professor Szweykowski on June 26 while on the evening of June 27, all participants attended a splendid dinner in a picturesque inn and restaurant, Stajnia i Wozownia (stable and coachhouse). We were welcomed by a folk-dance and choral group, the Andrzej Horbik group, which is well known on Polish radio. As we approached, the group in appropriate costume accompanied by their extremely melodious band sang folk songs and throughout the evening entertained us to beautiful songs and music from all parts of Poland. Later in this stimulating evening, the young ladies of the group invited individual delegates to dance, and soon the floor was filled with bryologists, their wives, and performers engaged in mazurkas, waltzes and more modern dances, depending on the music (and sometimes the mood or ability of the dancers!). It was a joyous, spontaneous evening, and the warm hospitality and friendliness of our hosts was felt by us all.

Early the next morning (28th), a somewhat subdued group of 36 bryologists set forth by bus to the ancient province of Pomerania (Pomorze) in northern Poland. Our one and only bryological stop was at the peatbog reserve "Stawek" in the northwestern part of the Tucholskie Forests. Because of its rich and varied flora we took twice as long to examine it as intended and so the visit to a second site had to be cancelled!

We spent the night in the city port of Gdańsk (Danzig as it used to be called where World War II began). At the request of many participants, Professor Szweykowski arranged with the bus driver to pick us up at 6.50 a.m. the next morning (29th) to visit the Old Town, which was originally constructed in the 13th century, when it became an important part of the Hanseatic League. Although nearly completely destroyed by the Nazis during World War II, the Old Town has now been accurately reconstructed and restored to its original beauty, at least the exteriors, although modernized within. It was a moving experience for all of us to set foot in a

place of such great historic significance and which had suffered such terrible consequences from war.

From Gdańsk we went westwards to the Kartuzy Hills and Lakeland where very high moraines were created by the last two glaciations. We stopped first at the Góra Zamkowa Hill, which reaches an altitude of 222 m a.s.m. and is covered with a fine forest of *Fagus sylvatica*. Next we visited briefly Brodnica Górna, a spectacular high outlook area overlooking two large lakes and with a clear view of Wiezyca Hill, a moraine which, with an altitude of 329 metres, is said to be the highest point in the North European Lowlands.

Our second bryological stop was the large peatbog reserve "Staniszewskie Błoto", and our third and last bryological stop was an extensive open peatbog and mossy fen near Suleczyno. Like the previous peatbog this one was in the process of being drained, although legal protection as a reserve is planned for it eventually.

The comprehensive and extremely helpful "Guide to the excursion" given to each participant was prepared by Prof. S. Lisowski and Dr. A. Rusińska. Throughout the two-day excursion Prof. Lisowski served as our field guide with enormous enthusiasm and vigor, with loudly shouted comments in French, German and Polish concerning each species encountered. He flew across bogs and through forests as if on wings, at a speed which could not be matched by anyone else, no matter how young, and yet he was suffering from a very bad cough! At the last stop he returned early to the bus after covering much more ground than any of us and arranged a large, labelled exhibit of the more interesting species which he had collected in some quantity and generously shared with anyone who had not found some particular species.

From Suleczyno we began the long trip back to Poznań, with a stop for dinner in a charming restaurant on the outskirts of Piła. The unanimous feeling among the participants was that this had been a greatly rewarding, stimulating and successful meeting, from the opening of the first session to our return to Poznań at 10.30p.m. that night.

New York Botanical Garden, Bronx,  
New York.

## IT HAPPENED IN POZNAŃ

by

A roving reporter

OUTSIDE IT WAS raining, a soft drizzle from the north sea shrouding all in a misty veil. Within the hotel Orbis Polonez, the staff went about their duties unaware that anything noteworthy was about to happen.

In the deep comfortable chairs of the foyer sat the white haired and thickly bespectacled figure of the well-known doyen of American hepaticology and a companion. The American betrayed little nervousness except that his customary flow of speech was a little more rapid and his comments on stupidities crisper than usual.

Shortly before 10a.m. that Monday morning, 23rd June, 1980 two vehicles drew up outside the entrance. From one stepped Prof. Jerzy Szweykowski, the Head of the Department of Genetics of the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, accompanied by Dr. Maria Krzakowa a member of his staff. Two young medical doctors sprang from the other vehicle. As one got a wheelchair from the back, the other opened the front passenger door and gently lifted a slight male figure whom he put gently into the chair. This man had an air of frailty about him, heightened by the slender arms and thin delicate hands. Yet his pale face showed resolve and determination as did the eyes glowing behind the glasses. But restless movements of the hands attempting to restrain the almost shoulder length brownish hair betrayed the fact that he too, the champion of European hepaticology, also entertained some emotions about the meeting which was about to take place.

The wheelchair slowly entered the foyer where the party hesitated a moment, looked around and then approached the two seated figures.

It was Professor Szweykowski who broke the ice. "Rudy, I would like you to meet Dr. Riclef Grolle". And with those few simple words, spoken in his quiet courteous voice, he had achieved what nearly 20 years of correspondence and writing about each other's work had failed to achieve! - a face to face meeting between Dr. Rudy Schuster of Amherst and Dr. Riclef Grolle of Jena. Almost unbe-

lievably it had happened at last - the European and American "champions" face to face for the very first time. At that fateful moment it seemed that bryological time stood still!

Characteristically, Schuster reacted instantly, greeting Grolle with the words:

"Well hello, after all these years".

And that was how it started, a meeting which lasted all day and well into the night gathered an instant momentum. Much of the time the two men talked alone, the witnesses sensing that it was better to withdraw. But snatches of conversation were overheard:

"I regard ..... 's treatment of that genus as so much garbage" Schuster said rapidly.

"After studied by me, I have new informations and I have shown that the type of ..... is the same as .... and I have reduced it to synonymy" Grolle announced in his deliberate way.

"That is a very good photograph" said Schuster looking keenly at the image of an hepatic in amber. "It is, of course, a ..... What did Caspary call it?"

"Ja, it is a ..... He called it ..... I have transferred it" was the smiling reply.

"You know, unfortunately for Caspary, he failed to ..... Do you see my point?"

And so it went on backwards and forwards. A question by one being instantly answered by the other, the stray ends being disposed of in synonymy or footnotes! Technicality capped technicality. Genera came and went it seemed. It was fascinating - it was masterful - it suggested a game of hepaticological chess played by two grand masters.

Following lunch they rested a while after which the afternoon session got under way. By this time all traces of the early nervousness had gone being replaced by the confidence of two evenly matched combatants who seemed rapidly to have appreciated that the greatest advantage was in exchanging ideas. Both displayed a keen sense of humour and the respect each had for the other showed through clearly.

That night at Puszezykowo, some 25 Km from Poznań, the ever charming

and indefatigable Dr. Maria Krzakowa hosted a feast. Pride of place was given to Drs. Grolle and Schuster, the other visitors being Professor Szweykowski, Drs. T. Pócs and S.W. Greene. Members of Dr. Krzakowa's family were also present. It was a sumptuous meal prepared against a background of almost incredible culinary problems which would have deterred all but our gifted hostess. Story-telling and laughter were non-stop, hepaticological harmony being everywhere in evidence.

To those privileged to be present, it was an unforgettable experience.

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#### GENEVA WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

THE PREDICTION MADE in *The Bryological Times* 1:3 has sadly come true - we did not achieve our deadline for getting the manuscript to Geneva and so lost our place in the publishing queue. It was only in the last week in March that I received the material for 4 of the early sessions i.e. approximately one quarter of the whole. As I was unprepared to abandon these, in spite of encouragement from some quarters, the result was that none of the manuscript reached Geneva by the 31 March deadline.

I was assured that the publishing time-table was so tight that there was no way in which our work could be fitted in later this year and hence I had no option but to accept that it will be next year before the Proceedings appear. I may add that at the time of writing (15 Aug.) a few authors, including one session leader, have still not sent anything - alas their contributions will have to be abandoned. S. W. Greene.

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## Future Meetings

Central and East  
European Bryologists

DURING THE recent meeting in Poznań, Dr. J. Váňa announced that it is planned to hold these meetings biennially. The 3rd meeting is scheduled for Prague in 1982. It is hoped to arrange a field trip to the Krhonoše Mountains in association with the meeting to be held in Prague.

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**DIARY**

THE FUTURE MEETINGS column was started (Bryol. Times, 1:5) with the idea of drawing readers' attention to information regarding meetings etc., one of the sources being the Bulletin of Bryology. Since the Bulletin is now only appearing twice a year it has been agreed with its editor, Dr. S. R. Gradstein, that information about meetings will appear first in these columns and be quoted as appropriate in that publication.

A Diary column will be included in each issue. Its completeness will be dependant upon the information received. So secretaries of the Bryological Societies, organizers of symposia, workshops and anyone with knowledge of a meeting or event of interest to bryologists, which has not already been noticed in these columns, are asked to send details direct to the Editor of this Newsletter. As The Bryological Times appears every two months, information normally can be disseminated faster in it than through the pages of the standard journals. Hence the worthwhileness of ensuring that the Diary is as complete and up to date as possible.

1980

12-14 Sept. Catskill Mts., nr. Claryville, N.Y. Andrews Foray. See Bull. Bryol. No. 18 (Taxon 29 (2/3): 371, 1980.

19-21 Sept. Bristol. Annual paper reading meeting of British Bryological Society. See BBS Bulletin 35:6.

20-21 Sept. West Brabant (Netherlands). Field meeting organized by Dutch Bryological and Lichenological Society. See Bull. Bryol. No. 18 (Taxon 29(2/3): 371, 1980.

10 Oct. Sendai (Japan). Annual joint meeting of Japanese Bryological Society and Japanese Lichenological Society. See Bull. Bryol. No. 18 (Taxon 29(2/3): 371, 1980).

1-2 Nov. Robertville (Belgium). Meeting of Working group of European bryophyte mapping project. See Bryol. Times: this issue p.2.

1981

21-28 Aug. Sydney. XIIIth International Botanical Congress. See

Bryol. Times 3:4 and 1:5 regarding proposed pre-Congress field trip.

1982

Prague. 3rd biennial meeting of Central and East European bryologists. See prelim. notice in Bryol. Times: this issue p. 5

1983

Feb. Dunedin. Pacific Science Congress. See prelim. notice Bryol. Times 3:4.

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**Personalia**

DR. M.-J. LAI formerly of the Department of Botany, National Taiwan University, moved during July 1980 to the Taiwan Museum as Associate Curator of Botany. All future correspondence should be sent to him at the Department of Botany, Taiwan Museum No. 2, Siangyang Road, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China. Dr. Lai has just completed a survey of the marshy areas in Taiwan including a study of their *Sphagnum* species, three being found new to the island.

"  
DRA. G.G. HASSEL DE MENÉNDEZ returned to Buenos Aires at the end of July and all future correspondence should be addressed to her at the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia".

PROF. C.M. MATTERI (Buenos Aires) will leave Penicuil in mid-September and after brief visits to the cryptogamic herbaria in Paris and Geneva, expects to be back in Buenos Aires for the beginning of November.

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**Recent Publications**

Cryptogamie Bryol. Lichen., Vol. 1, Fasc. 2, 1980.

Bull. Br. Bryol. Soc., No. 36, 1980.

J. Bryol., Vol. 11, Pt. 1, 1980.

Miscnea. bryol. lichen., Vol. 8, No. 7, 1980.

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## Desiderata

I WOULD LIKE some information about the Bryologische Zeitschrift which seems to be one of the rarer bryological journals. It was begun by Leopold Loeske ("Verantwortlicher Schriftleiter") in 1916 and printed by Hoffman & Campes, Berlin - Schöneberg. A copy of 1(1), pp. 1-16 which includes articles by I. Györfy, L. Loeske and B. Wiemeyer, is in H (Ex libris V.F. Brotherus), and 1, pp. 1-112 in MO. However, it seems that Vol. 1 should be larger since according to Index muscorum, the genus Loeskypnum Paul was described on p. 155. The entry in Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum indicates publication as Parts 1-6, 1916-17.

If anyone has a copy of Bryologische Zeitschrift from p. 113 onwards or a reprint of Paul's paper, I would very much like to obtain a xerox copy of it. Was Vol. 2 or later volumes ever published?

Timo Koponen, Botanical Museum, University of Helsinki, Unionink. 44, SF-00170 Helsinki 17, Finland.

## IN SEARCH OF DILLENIAN SPECIMENS

IT IS BEING REALISED by an increasing number of bryologists that the herbaria of Dillenius in OXF are a very important source of types for early bryophyte names. For example I observed in 1977 that the specimens of Lophocolea bidentata in one of the herbaria are splendid and I selected one of them as lectotype.

When trying recently to lectotypify the Hedwigian species Dicranum scoparium and D. flexuosum, I wanted to take into account also the Dillenian herbaria because Lindberg (1883: Kritisk granskning of mossorna uti Dillenii Historia muscorum. Helsingfors) had stated that they contained several specimens of these two species that match their present day interpretation.

The Dillenian specimens are, impracticably but understandably, not sent on loan so I could not study them in my laboratory. But M.V.F. Corley was so kind as to look for them and his surprising conclusion was that they were missing from OXF! The two species are not represented in the Lindberg collection of Dillenian duplicates in H-SOL either, and so far I

have not been able to trace them. If anybody can inform me about Dillenian duplicates in other herbaria, or about literature on the Dillenian bryophytes apart from Lindberg (1883 see above); Durce & Vines (1907: The Dillenian herbaria. Oxford) and Isoviita (1970: Acta bot. fenn. 89) I would be most grateful.

D.A.J. Vogelpoel, H Swarthln 13, 9721 TR Groningen, The Netherlands.

## Deaths

"GUNDISCH, F. During April 1980.

## Book Catalogues

FOR EARLIER ARTICLES on this subject see Bryol. Times 4:5; 3:5.

John Johnson,  
Natural History Books,  
R.F.D.2, North Bennington,  
Vermont 05257, USA.  
Tel. 802-442-6738.  
No telex or abbreviated telegram/cable address.

Issues catalogues 3-4 times a year, which include works on bryophytes.

Latest relevant catalogue:-  
Natural history No. 96.

Wheldon & Wesley Ltd.,  
Lytton Lodge, Codicote, Hitchin,  
Herts. SG4 8TE, England.  
Tel: 0438-820370. Telegrams/Cables:  
Wheldonwesley, Codicote, Hitchin.  
Telex: 825562 Chacom G Wheld.

Latest relevant catalogue:  
No. 151 - Books on natural history,  
issued July 1980.

## EXCHANGE AND MART

CONFERENTIA BRYOLOGORUM 5-8 JUNII,  
1978 in EGER (HUNGARIA).

A SMALL NUMBER of copies of the Proceedings of this, the first meeting of Central and East European bryologists, is still available. Enquiries to Dr. T. Simon, Institut for Plant Taxonomy and Ecology, Loránd Eötvös University, H-1088 Budapest, Muzeum kr. 4/a, Hungary.

IMPORTANT HEPATICOLOGICAL OFFERINGS

A LIMITED NUMBER of complete sets of Stephani's *Species hepaticarum* (6 volumes, a small part xeroxed) is still available from the Conservatoire et Jardins Botaniques in Genève at a price of 900 S.Fr. (150 S.Fr. per volume). Exchange offers including rare books or periodicals, or plant collections from less well-known regions (e.g. tropical and southern hemisphere countries, southern Europe) are also accepted. Exchange collections should include about 600 identified, well-labelled specimens.

Please send offers to the Librarian, Conservatoire et Jardins Botaniques, Case postale 60, CH-1292 Chambésy/GE, Switzerland.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY exists to purchase a set of the 3 volumes of Schuster's *Hepaticae and Anthocerotae of North America, east of the 100th meridian*, for a total cost of US \$45.00. The price is for one set of the 3 volumes, all so far published. Seven sets are on offer each in mint condition but only one set will be allowed to each purchaser to be selected by the vendor on a first come, first served basis.

Send no money now - simply put your name and address on a postcard or a letter marked Schuster Offer and send it to The Bryological Times, Box No. 5-1, c/o The Editor, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Bush Estate, Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 0QB, Scotland. Date of receipt in Bush will be recorded for vendor.

COPIES OF separates by P. Allorge, V. Allorge, R. Gaume, M. Bizot, R. Potier de la Varde and I. Thériot are available for exchange. All propositions will be considered by: Denis Lamy, Laboratoire de Cryptogamie, 12 rue Buffon, 75005 Paris, France.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Day after day I struggle with reprints I cannot understand or file because they are written in languages not based on the Roman alphabet. It would be of the greatest help to me, and I feel sure to most other bryologists as well, if as a very minimum a transliteration of the names of the author, the title of the paper and

the place of publication (journal, book etc.) could appear somewhere in roman characters. The ideal would be to have it printed as part of the article but this could take a long time to achieve as it would involve the co-operation of many editors.

In the meantime could authors of such works please write or paste a typed slip on their reprints giving name of author(s), title and source in roman characters?

Yours faithfully,

G.G. Hässel de Menéndez, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia", Buenos Aires.

Dear Sir,

For the last 3 years I have been suffering from postal disorders in the international mail, such as losses, wrong addresses or incorrect procedures e.g. often delivering to me packets with specimens which have not been through plant quarantine. It is obvious that, when we cannot depend upon the international postal service, professional activities are greatly reduced or even not possible at all. The routine work of plant taxonomy, which requires the sending of specimens, naturally expects normal postal services.

I would like to ask if anyone might have suggestions for special packing materials or other ways of ensuring the safety of small plants such as bryophytes. I have raised the question with some domestic authorities and organisations and explained the importance of the postal services for our work but so far, no satisfactory ideas for improvement have been obtained.

I especially request colleagues not to send specimens to me until my trust in the postal services has been restored.

Yours sincerely,

Y. Kuwahara, 10-2139, Mii-machi, Kurume Fukuoka, 830 Japan.

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 October at the latest.

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