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IAB symposium on 2000's Bryology, Beijing, China, May 26-31, 1997

Opening address by the President of IAB

Ladies and gentlemen,

As President of the IAB, it is my pleasure to present this welcome speech to the participants of the IAB Symposium on 2000's Bryology.

When compared with many other international societies, our Society is still rather young, established only some 30 years ago. However, I believe that you can agree with me that we already have achieved rather much. We publish our regular newsletter "The Bryological Times" and the reviewing journal "Advance in Bryology". We have been able to establish a fund from which we can offer scholarships to support bryological research. By establishing special committees, such as the "the Committee for Endangered Bryophytes" and "the Committee for Tropical Bryology", we have taken a leading role in these fields.

However, perhaps the most important activity involves these Annual Meet-

ings, which take place every second year. In these meetings the scientists from different countries and different disciplines can devote their time only to the bryophytes and to bryology. The other less important sciences, such as the physiology of vascular plants, the coevolution of algae and fungi called lichens, or the ecology of marine biotopes do not disturb our concentration and discussions. Our annual meeting now takes place for the first time in continental Asia, and I am very pleased that the country is China. China is in the central position in Asiatic bryology, as its name, when translated literally, tells us. Some of us senior foreign bryologists have known this for dozens of years, and have tried to support Chinese bryology and bryologists. Several Chinese bryologists, such as Professor Lai Ming-Jou and Professor Cao Tong, present in this meeting, defended their

theses for the Ph.D. abroad. More than 10 senior Chinese bryologists have visited my laboratory in Helsinki for long periods of time, and I now have two Chinese Ph.D. students in Helsinki.

I believe this meeting is a great challenge both for the young generation of Chinese bryologists and for us foreigners. You young Chinese bryologists must be brave and bother us with your questions, and we foreigners must try to be helpful to these young Chinese bryologists, and, at the same time, to continue our good cooperation with our senior Chinese colleagues.

The International Association of Bryologists, or its Board of Councillors, actually plays a minor role in organizing these Annual Meetings. The major work is being done by a Research Institute or local Association of Bryologists, this time by the Committee on Bryo-

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phytes of the Chinese Botanical Society and the Institute of Botany, the Chinese Academy of Sciences. We also have several supporters, such as the K. C. Wong Education Foundation, the Committee of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the J. X. Lu Sci-

entific Exchange Program Foundation, and the Finnish-Chinese Botanical Foundation.

The arrangement of our Annual Meetings in this way has been quite successful. Now after seeing the Symposium program and the abstract book, I know that this Symposium will be a

success.

I thank the Organizing Committee and our supporters for arranging this possibility for the world's bryologists to meet.

The Symposium is now open.

Timo Koponen



Participants outside the Symposium building

Report from the IAB symposium on 2000's Bryology

The biennial meeting of the International Association of Bryologists **International Symposium on 2000's Bryology** was successfully held in Beijing, China on 26-31 May, 1997. The symposium was hosted by the Committee on Bryophytes, the Chinese Botanical Society and International Association of Bryologists and sponsored by the Institute of Botany, the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The meeting was supported by the K.C.Wong Education Foundation, Hong Kong; Committee of National Natural Science Foundation of China; J.X. Lu Scientific Exchange Program Foundation, The Chinese Academy of Sciences and The Finnish-Chinese Botanical Foundation. More than 100 participants from 16 countries and regions attended the symposium.

On Tuesday, 27 May, the symposium was formally inaugurated by Dr.

Koponen, president of IAB and Dr. Zhang Xingshi, Director of the Institute of Botany. Deputy president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Prof. Xu Z. H. delivered a welcome address to the meeting. After the opening ceremony, the symposium was started by lectures on "Two centuries of Systematic of Bryophytes-what will the future bring" by Jan-Peter Frahm and "Floristic studies of the East Asiatic mosses" by Z. Iwatsuki. During the following four day's symposium, about 80 papers including 16 invited papers were presented and more than 30 papers were given in the poster section. The contributed papers covered nearly all the research fields of Bryology including Systematics and Phylogeny; Ecology; Physiology and Chemistry; Cytology and Molecular study; Flora and Phytogeography; and Biodiversity and Con-

servation as well as Antarctica bryophytes. Concerning 2000's Bryology, Some lectures, such as "Phylogenetic relationships in the Marchantiales" by H. Bischler; "Systematics of the Lejeuneaceae: Introduction" by S. Rob Gradstein; "Bryology in China, its history, present status and future" by P.C. Wu.; "New advances in bryophyte Community ecology: theory and practice" by Nancy G. Slack; "Attributes of Rarity Among Alberta mosses: Patterns and prediction of species diversity" by Dale H. Vitt; "Molecular systematics of Bryophytes" by Brent D. Mishler; "Biologically active compounds from Bryophytes" by Y. Asakawa; "Rarity of dynamic species and conservation strategies" by Lars Söderström and Antarctic Bryology: "The past, the present, and future directions: An Overview" by R.

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Seppelt and H. Kanda etc. represented the recent advances and prospects for bryology in the world.

It was the first and largest international symposium on bryology held in China. During the symposium, about 50 Chinese participants including most senior bryologists and the young generation in China were active. They submitted 68 abstracts of contributed papers dealing with systematic, photosynthesis, cytology, Ecology, Chemistry of Bryophytes and exchanged ideas and research works with foreign colleagues. The free discussion between Chinese young bryologists and part of foreign bryologists in the evening on 28 May was interesting and helpful. Besides, the Chinese bryologists met together in one

afternoon and discussed about the further action on bryology in China. It was decided that the news letter of Chinese bryology (in Chinese) will be published this year and a workshop on classification and systematic, ecology and research methodology of bryophytes will be held on Chagbai Mountain forestry Research Station in August, 1998.

Of course, visiting the Great Wall, Underground tomb and Summer Palace in Beijing is very attractive for all participants.

After the symposium, two field trips were organized on 1-6 June. One group went down to Chengdu and Jiuzhaigou in south-west China, sponsored by Prof. P.C. Wu, Botanical Institute, CAS and another group went up to Northeast China, Mt. Changbai sponsored by Prof.

Cao Tong, Institute of Applied Ecology CAS. It was reported that these two trips were well organized and very useful for enabling the participating bryologists to understand the rich bryoflora of China.

At last, I have to mention that the mementos with words "IAB symposium on 2000's Bryologist, memory of the founder of Chinese bryology, Prof. P.C. Chen" brought historical recollections of contribution of Prof. P. C. Chen to Chinese bryology to all Chinese bryologists.

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1997 IAB Awards - Beijing

STANLEY GREENE RESEARCH AWARD SHARED BY:

Gregorio Dauphin (Systematisch-Geobotanisches Institut der Universität Göttingen, Germany) for travel to Bolivia to collect material for the research project 'Typification of the oil-bodies in the genus *Cololejeunea* (Hepaticae: Lejeuneaceae): A Bolivian overview'.

Xing Fu (Institute of Applied Ecology, Academia Sinica, Shenyang, China) for travel to Canada to do field work and analyze data for the research project 'A comparative study of bryophyte diversity in coniferous rainforests of British Columbia (Canada) and the Changbai Mountain Area (northeastern China).

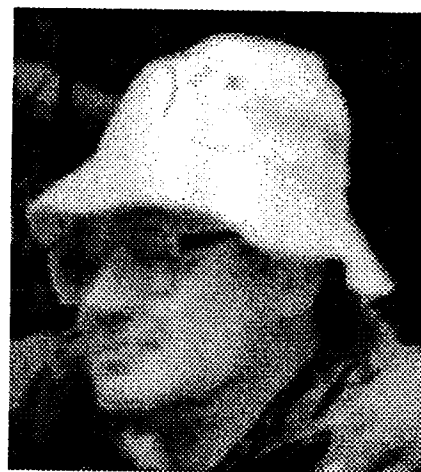
THE RICHARD SPRUCE PLAQUE:

Timo Koponen (University of Helsinki, Finland) for outstanding contributions to the field of bryology during the first 25 years of his career.

THE HATTORI PRIZE:

Steven Churchill and Edgar I. Linares C. for their two volume publication entitled "Prodromus Bryologiae Novo-Granatensis: An introduccion a la Flora de Musgos de Colombia". This was considered the best bryological publication by an IAB member during 1995-1997.

To all - our congratulations.



Timo Koponen, the winner of the Richard Spruce Plaque

1997-1999 committees as appointed by the President at Beijing

Hattori Prize Committee

T. Koponen, Chair
B. Crandall-Stotler
M. Ignatov
L. Söderström

Hedwig Medal Committee

T. Pócs, Chair
W. Frey
H. Ramsay
W. Reese

Stanley Greene Research Award Committee

D. Vitt, Chair
T. Koponen
H. Deguchi
C. Delgadillo

Post-symposium field trip to Mt. Changbai (Manchuria).

Dale and Sandy Vitt, René Belland, Sylvie Mauser (Edmonton), Lars Söderström (Trondheim), Beáta Papp (Budapest), David Rycroft (Glasgow), Sha Wei (Qiqihar), Zheng Suying (Kunming), Cao Tong and Fu Xing. (Shenyang).

1st June. The flight NE from Beijing was to Yanji, less than 200 km to the W of Vladivostok. Our goal, Erdaobaihe (Second White River) Town, lay only some 130 km to the SW as the crow flies, but it required a coach journey of several hours over a variety of 'interesting' road surfaces and mostly in the dark to reach our accommodation at The Research Station of Changbai Mountain Forest Ecosystems of The Chinese Academy of Sciences. This lies at an altitude of 736 m, latitude 42°N.

Changbai Mountain is a dormant volcano and includes the highest peak (2691m) in NE China. It is noted for its clear demonstration of altitudinal zonation of vegetation and lies within a nature reserve that extends to the northern border of N. Korea.

2nd June. Our first outing was to an area of the broadleaf - Korean Pine mixed forest near Hong Shi Lin Chang (Red Stone Forest Farm), alt. ca 700m. The weather we experienced belied the fact, borne out by the bryophyte flora, that average precipitation is not high. The two of us (admittedly from oceanic 'home' territories) with particular interests in liverworts were surprised by how far we had walked into the forest before even a single hepatic was seen. After lunch, and on the way to visit a permanent experimental plot near the Research Station's meteorological tower, various species (including *Porella oblongifolia*) were examined growing corticolously on *Quercus* trunks in a roadside timber pile.

3rd June. With better weather in prospect, our aim was to explore the tundra zone above 2000 m, even though snow lying higher up meant that we would not be able to visit Tianchi, the Sky Lake

in the crater of the volcano. Our transport took us initially to ca 1700m, where the coniferous forest is replaced by the fascinating *Betula ermanii* woodland (extending to the treeline) with an understorey frequently of the dwarf *Rhododendron aureum* Georgi, just coming into flower in places that had been snow-free the longest. The jeep shuttled back and forth up to above the treeline. Yours truly arrived last on foot, not long after having been overtaken by the last jeep load, and, despite a minor blizzard which sprang up while we ate lunch, insisted on climbing (appropriately clad) another 100 m to view the nearest promising ground close up.

4th June. The importance, emphasized by Dale Vitt in his talk at the Beijing symposium, of rock outcrops in increasing the number of species present in a mesohabitat was well-illustrated when we visited exposures in the vicinity of Yin Huan Hu (Silver Ring Lake), alt. ca 1800m. Unfortunately, evidence of the tourist pressure experienced by the Reserve was also abundant. Lars said that we ought to find *Frullania* spp. on the trees here, so this novice dutifully examined a shoot off a nearby *Betula ermanii* trunk and told Lars that it was a *Frullania* with funny red blobs on the end of the branches. So it was that we found *Frullania bolanderi*.

In the afternoon we used the path to Gu Di Sen Lin (the Underground Forest) to gain access to the river at ca 1500m. Dale's cry of "I told him it's like herding cats" as we poured down a steep slope, despite Cao Tong's protestations concerning our safety, proved only too prophetic when two members later became detached temporarily from the group. A small stream near the river contained much of hepatic interest, including *Plagiochila* cf. *porelloides*, both male plants with antheridia and female plants with sporophytes (Sha Wei's studies of these plants show a chromosome number of 9).

5th June. While some of the party

embarked on the first day of field work for a Sino-Canadian mesohabitat project, the rest of us decided, instead of visiting a bog near the N. Korean border, to head high again, this time in the vicinity of the waterfall below Tianchi. Three of us climbed up over an extensive snow patch (used to cool the beer) and rocky and then unstable scree to reach the foot of crags to the E of the waterfall and above the 2000 m mark. Perched at the top of a snow slope, and with the mist swirling around, Dale found something that excited him, only to have his hopes dashed on returning to *terra firma*.

Later in the day we returned to the path to the Underground Forest to meet up with the project workers, then Lars and I pushed on to spend more time at the stream that had taken our fancy on the previous day, this time following it till it disappeared in a tangle of fallen trees near where the main river was out of sight at the bottom of a deep, narrow, still ice-filled slit cut through the soft volcanic rock. A magnificent broadleaved tree with flowers of *Calypso bulbosa* at its foot stood out as a beacon in sharp contrast to the dark shades of the predominant conifers.

At the farewell party, Sha Wei proved herself to be the Queen of Karaoke, knocking Brent Mishler's sterling efforts at the Beijing party into a cocked hat. It was left to the Europeans to uphold the honour of the Occident in the dancing, Beáta also having the honour of matching the dancing prowess of the Director of the Research Station.

6th June. With the weather the best we had seen, we left René, Sylvie and Fu Xing to continue their work, and spent the day on the coach travelling back to Yanji, now able to see what before the darkness had concealed.

Many, many thanks to Fu Xing, Cao Tong and the resident team for making the arrangements and ensuring the success of the trip.

David Rycroft, Glasgow.

Yin and Yang in Southwestern China: Personal Reflections on Field Trip SW-B to Northwestern Sichuan

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Yes, I am one of the fortunate survivors of Field Trip SW-B which, following the IAB symposium in Beijing, originated in Chengdu, a city of 3 million located in Sichuan Province. Others included Nancy Slack, who has been commissioned to write a more objective and factual account of our journey; Nancy's husband Glen, a physicist and raconteur; Zoltan Tuba, a mad Hungarian who, having apparently lived in Roman times, knows how to pronounce Latin names "properly"; and Chia-Li Wu and Shu-Jen Chang, two Taiwanese scientists whom we promptly dubbed "Charlie" and "Susan," respectively.

Charlie was a lifesaver for us, as she could sometimes translate and explain to us what our leader, Professor Peng-Cheng Wu, was trying to tell us about our uncertain fate. Often our fate hung in the balance as Prof. Wu engaged in loud and acrimonious debate with Mei-Zhi Wang, the leader of a second group consisting of Chinese bryologists. Among the latter were B. J. Lin and her daughter's friend, Ms. Guan.

I am sure that Nancy Slack will provide full details of the trip, as she kept voluminous and meticulous notes in her journal. Thus, I am freed to offer merely the bare bones of "where we were when and what we were doing then and there" and to focus instead on subjective impressions and scathing innuendo (what Lars Söderström and his ilk really want to hear about anyway).

Our trip began 1 June 1997 when we departed Beijing by air, arriving in Chengdu and proceeding on by van to Dujiangyan, a smaller city on the Min River. After a one-day trip with colleagues on the SW-A field excursions to Royal Dragon Rocky Moss Garden, we embarked on our adventure into the mountains of what once was Tibet. Our destination was Jiuzhaigou, an incredibly beautiful and well-preserved park. The journey took two long days up and

two long days back. En route we stopped overnight in Songpan, a Tibetan town nestled in the mountains, yet at >3,000 m itself. On our return to Dujiangyan and Chengdu, although our luggage took the alternative scenic route, we also stopped overnight in Wolong and briefly visited the Panda Preserve there.

ROAD PERILS AND PITFALLS

The roads that we had to traverse were the worst I have ever experienced. Basically, after we left the city, with its bewildering commingling of pedestrians, bicycles, motorcycles, cars, buses, truck, and vehicles that defy description, we were on a jeep trail—but we didn't have a jeep! I was reassured after the fact that our van was perfectly safe and road-worthy: after all, it had already gone more than 300,000 km. It was advisable to wear a helmet on days you were consigned to the back seat. What a workout! I'm just grateful that none of my internal organs were shaken loose.

When we first encountered a section of the road with one side (the "bad" side, not to be driven on) closed off by rocks, I joked to Nancy that it was a Chinese "divided highway." I lived to regret those words. Numerous times we were stopped by boulders in the road and once, for more than two hours, by a more serious rockslide that obliterated the "highway." "Joe," our driver, did an excellent job, but even he got the van stuck in deep mud a couple of times, forcing evacuation of the vehicle. More scary for me were the innumerable times we passed huge trucks laden with logs or rocks, listing to port or starboard, on blind curves. As we zoomed past, I pondered my imminent demise, gazing hundreds of meters down the steep slope to the unforgiving rocks and water below. Only by finally accepting the certainty of my death on a remote jeep trail in China did I conquer my fear and loathing.

Eventually, I was able to laugh when

Prof. Wu would exclaim "This road used to be good—very good—10 years ago." And I suffered only a minor relapse when, having withstood the perils of the first day, I tried to commiserate with "Joe," only to have him remark "Tomorrow roads get bad." He also told me confidentially that he hoped it didn't rain, because then we could be stuck in the mountains indefinitely.

Some others didn't accept their fate so gracefully. After resuscitating himself with oxygen, one fellow traveler gasped to me that driving back over the road to Chengdu would undoubtedly kill him. "Let's hire a helicopter and get the hell out of here." Which might not have been a bad idea, had there been a helicopter...or even a place where a helicopter could have set down! So we wrenched ourselves back into the van and plunged on toward oblivion, with "Jiu—Zhai—Gou" as our mantra.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SIGHTSEEING

In Beijing I had suffered enough embarrassment for a lifetime when Brent Mishler and I were harangued into performing a karaoke duet in the Herbarium. Our resounding rendition of what an apparently overly punctilious Chinese translator rendered as "He Aren't Heavy—He's My Brother" apparently entitled me to a solo performance at our hotel in Dujiangyan. Normally, I perform only old Jimmy Buffett songs, but I agreed, under pressure, to try something from the only English CD the disc jockey could find. I stood before the applauding, expectant crowd and became panic-stricken when the CD came on not only with a different song and different artist than advertised, but something I had never heard before in my life! Fortunately, the audience was polite, recognizing that Chinese bootleg CDs are not only cheap but chock-full of surprises.

In Jiuzhaigou, our entire troupe had

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an opportunity to perform. We attended an evening of traditional Tibetan folk music and dance. At one point we were all invited to join the dancers on the floor, and Prof. Wu gave quite a spirited performance. Unfortunately, Zoltan the Hungarian Bull was eliminated in the early rounds of the people-pulling contest, having worn inappropriate footwear.

The scenery of Jiuzhaigou was as spectacular as proclaimed. I had assumed that the color rendition in the slick pamphlets and postcards I had seen was "enhanced." But I was wrong. The high mountaintops with snow stood out against the clear blue sky, arching above the mixed deciduous and coniferous forests and the spectacular rivers, lakes, and waterfalls below. The landscape here was unlike anything I had ever seen before, with clear blue, icemelt water held back by vertical partitions of tilted rock. In some places there were waterfalls that extended laterally for hundreds of meters. Sometimes the water gushed between vegetation islands of trees or shrubs, causing me to wonder how the plants had ever managed to become established.

In this remote area, there also was a Lama Temple that had escaped destruction. Nestled at the base of a towering rock wall, it was decorated with carvings and bright paintings. This penchant for bright colors was also seen in the costumes of local Tibetan women, who wore delightful aprons even to work in the fields. They also wore jewelry fashioned by local craftsmen, and many of us bought trinkets from the street vendors. As in Beijing, I had never before encountered such raw entrepreneurship. These predatory salespeople with two-word English vocabularies ("Hello! Look!") became increasingly bold in their entreaties for someone to buy something. Usually the price dropped an order of magnitude if you simply held out for a few minutes or feigned disinterest. The purchase of any item, no matter how trifling, was a spectacle for the local people, who massed around straining for a better view or an

opening to attract your attention to another item up for sale.

EATING AND DRINKING

We had become somewhat spoiled in Beijing by the easy availability of the local beer in liter bottles for about 30 cents. In the country, the beer supply was a bit more uncertain. Nevertheless, we usually persisted and managed to find something potable. To anyone who enjoys wine, I would advise avoiding at all costs the sickeningly sweet beverage they told us was "Chinese rice wine." Fortunately, it was served in thimbles, and its consumption was not mandatory. At every meal we were awash in green tea, but, alas, no coffee was to be found. I had long ago used my last "tea bag" of coffee kindly provided by Nancy, and at times I longed for a simple bottle of water. Our driver provided some bottles in the van, but I feared the purity of bottles for sale on the street whose caps appeared to have been removed and the bottle refilled from a source other than that indicated on the label.

Chinese food is my favorite, and we enjoyed a chance at nearly every meal to sample an astonishingly wide array of dishes. I discovered, however, that three weeks of Chinese breakfasts, facing pickled squid or chicken feet and spicy cabbage or radishes early in the morning, was too much for me. I found myself, at the first opportunity back in a hotel in Beijing, ordering a large cheeseburger (and a cup of coffee)! And I didn't use chopsticks to eat the burger.

We are not entirely sure what all we did eat on the trip. There was always some uncertainty in the translations. Besides cat and dog, however, we are reasonably certain that we consumed hamsters. At a lovely lodge near the Royal Dragon Rocky Moss Garden, we feasted on grasshoppers (crunchy, nutty, and not altogether bad) and cicadas (not crunchy, slimy, and altogether rotten). Some in our party were disconcerted by the Chinese practice of leaving the heads on fish and fowl to be consumed. You never knew who might be looking back at you as you tried to dredge up a

little meat from the bottom of the soup tureen!

Among the many wonderful dishes we had were eggplant with fish taste and fish with eggplant taste. When these favorite dishes appeared, it was sometimes dangerous to get too close to the rapidly revolving "lazy susan." This method of distributing the bowls of food around the table was ubiquitous in China. In Dujiangyan, we sat at a table with an electric motor that rotated the lazy susan. As I sat near the control switch, I did very well that day filling up on my favorite dishes.

One of my least favorite meals was taken at the Panda Hotel in Wolong. We arrived late, but Nancy and I slipped away for 30 minutes of surreptitious collecting before dinner. It was very wet in the forest, and dusk was fast approaching. We stayed as long as we possibly could and then went directly to the dining room to join the others, who were already seated for dinner. Taking my place next to Prof. Wu, I removed my raincoat and noticed what appeared to be a harmless inchworm on my wrist. Showing it off to Prof. Wu, he exclaimed loudly: "Lee-Cheese!" At first it didn't register. I thought: "Well, he's awfully excited about having lychee nuts for dessert." But, as he grabbed my arm and used his chopsticks to remove the leech from my wrist, the horror began to sink in. Suddenly, I could feel the bloodsucking scourges all over my body! Unceremoniously lifting my pantsleg, I discovered a large one that was well-attached to my ankle. I pulled it loose, and blood gushed out of the wound. Then I found another higher up on my arm. Fortunately, that was the last one, but by now my meal (and that of my companions) was ruined. I did not go back in the forest the following morning; I figured I was already running about a liter below normal. And we never did have any lychee nuts.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND FACILITIES

Well, it turned out that Glen Slack was really a hotel and fine dining critic for Condé Nast Traveler, and he took

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delight in awarding "stars" to the places where we stayed or ate. Personally, I was amused at the idea of a "four-star hotel," in which a sign on the mirror warns you not to drink the water. And another sign cautions you not to flush the (often nonexistent) toilet paper. Wow, if this rates four stars, I wondered, what will one endure in an establishment of lesser quality? The answer was not long in coming. And, yes, it was related to the plumbing, the climate control (or lack thereof), and the size and ferocity of the other vertebrates and invertebrates that shared your space.

The one four-star hotel we stayed in was located in downtown Chengdu. We arrived late, and the night was muggy. But it was a four-star hotel, right, so it had air conditioning. Apparently, it would have earned five stars if the air conditioning had actually worked! I tried to explain my discomfort to the three uniformed attendants on the floor. I pulled them into the room, I pretended to wipe sweat from my brow—after 10-15 minutes, I got through. Great, I thought, I can still get a good night's sleep after they fix the air conditioning or move me to another room. No such luck. After about 30 minutes, the female attendant returned with a fan. This might have been okay except that it was noisy. Also, it had a timer that caused it to shut off automatically. And the dial only went up to 30 minutes. Needless to say, I slept fitfully that night.

I really need a warm shower first thing in the morning to get me going. Unfortunately, I kept running afoul of local practices and strange devices that thwarted me at every turn. In Songpan, after shivering through a freezing cold "bird bath," I learned that hot water was available. But only in the evening from 7:00-8:00 p.m. At the Panda Hotel, I studied what appeared to be a large tank of water connected to a Rube Goldberg-apparatus for heating water. Risking electrocution, I threw the switch, and the water proceeded to heat. Great, I thought, I'll have all the hot water I could possibly want for a shower in the morning. Imagine my shock when I was

awakened in the middle of the night by insipid music. Damn, why don't these people get quiet and go to bed? I continued to be awakened every hour on the hour through the night by these inconsiderate revelers. In the morning, I discovered that the music was coming from my shower! Apparently, it was an alarm to inform me that the water was hot. And, boy, was it hot! That morning I scalded myself.

But the biggest adventure was undoubtedly the toilets. Glen and I carefully tested each one and dutifully compared notes before proclaiming the number of stars awarded. In the hotels, we were mostly in the 1- to 2-star range, as we typically had to open the tank and do some simple repairs to get them to flush. And we discovered that those "sanitized" banners simply mean that someone placed a banner, not necessarily that the toilet has actually been flushed, much less cleaned, in the recent past. Some of the filthy holes in the floor in Dujiangyan were drifting down toward zero, but Jiuzhaigou achieved new lows. In one restaurant, where we enjoyed a rather nice meal of dumplings, the upstairs toilet was actually a multi-purpose room. It doubled as a shower and closet. Apparently, the usual routine was to put on rubber boots and pee in the drain while taking your shower! To top it off, there was a hole in the ceiling open to the sky. At a gas station we discovered true "absolute zero." It was a pit dug into a hillside with the sun beating down. A few boards extended across the pit. Perched precariously on one of these, you did your business, while holding your nose with one hand and fighting off 10,000 flies with the other. Glen and I quickly concurred: "minus 5 stars!"

FORESTS AND CHENGDU AND JIUZHAIGOU DEFORESTATION

As I have said, the forests of Jiuzhaigou were incredibly beautiful. Unfortunately, they stand out so sharply partly because of the almost total destruction of the rest of the landscape we viewed en route. In Chengdu we were reassured that the smog blanketing the city was really only "fog." In this low-lying area,

virtually all of the land was used for rice fields, and even on impossibly steep slopes in the mountains, fields of beans and corn extended to the edge of the road. In some villages we drove through we helped with the threshing of grains, as the stalks were simply placed in the road for traffic to pass over.

There was a conspicuous absence of forests from much of this region, which should support such growth. Apparently, the forest had been cut all the way up to treeline on the mountains, presumably to feed iron furnaces during the Cultural Revolution. We could still see the scars on the hillsides where the logs were snaked out. Due to erosion and climate change, these forests apparently are unable to regenerate. At lower elevations and on less steep slopes near Dujiangyan, we did see stands of planted *Cryptomeria* that appeared to be thriving. Perhaps one day instead of everybody "working" on the roads (apparently, maintaining full employment and actually finishing any part of the road are completely antagonistic goals), some people will set about trying to restore some of the original forest.

A major concern of mine, shared by at least some of the Chinese with whom I spoke, is the traditional attitude toward the environment. Observing that nearly all of the Chinese people we saw on the street were reasonably clean and neat, I was shocked to see the filth in some areas of the cities and villages. In the middle of downtown Dujiangyan, passed by pedestrians and near well-kept shops, were huge piles of garbage and other filth. But no one seemed to notice. The attitude seemed to be: if it's not directly touching me, it is not my concern. I was appalled to discover, when the van stopped along the road for people to take pictures of a mirror lake reflecting mountains and forests in Jiuzhaigou, that "Joe" was unceremoniously pitching our empty water bottles out by the side of the road! Seeing my startled reaction, Prof. Wu said "Very bad. Traditional Chinese way. Bad."

For many of us, the high point of the

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whole trip was the visit to the Panda Preserve at Wolong. Although we arrived late, special arrangements were made for us to tour the "hospital," where about 30 giant pandas were in residence. We got to see the majority of these and even feed and pet some of them! We also were taken on a special tour to see the red (or lesser) panda. It was a real treat to see these poster boys for world wildlife conservation. Nancy's generous contribution to the Panda Club probably didn't hurt our chances to see the animals close-up.

THE BOTTOM LINE

As should be apparent by now, the field trip was not exactly what most of us had expected. The physical hardships and psychological trauma associated with travel in a rapidly changing Third World Country hit us spoiled residents of the West rather hard. The constant disappointments, frustrations, and surprises left us feeling impatient and out-of-sorts much of the time. Prof. Wu and the other Chinese bryologists tried at every turn to make our way easier and more pleasant, protecting us from as much as they could, but it was a Herculean task.

On the other hand, we learned a great deal about China: the land and its people. We saw some amazing scenery and interesting plants and animals. Some of the more bold among us even came back with bryophyte collections. More on those in Nancy's forthcoming report.

New publications

"The World of Plants" (Shokubutsu no Sekai), Volume 136 (ed. by Z. Iwatsuki) and volume 137 (ed. by Z. Iwatsuki and N. Kitagawa). Published by the Asahi Shimbun, Japan. The booklets may be ordered from "The World of Plants" (Mr. Tetsuo Ohmura, Editor in Chief), Weekly encyclopaedia Division, Publ. Dept., Asahi Shimbun, 5-3-2 Tsukiji, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-11, Japan, Fax +81-3-3544-1989, Email RDG02304@niftyserve.or.jp The price is about US \$ 8.00 per copy

The beautiful world of bryophytes

I have never seen a more stunning selection of bryophyte pictures than the ones that appeared in volumes 136 and 137 of "The World of Plants" (Shokubutsu no Sekai), a weekly magazine series published by the Asahi Shimbun, Japan. Volume 136 (edited by Z. Iwatsuki) deals with the mosses, volume 137 (edited by Z. Iwatsuki and N. Kitagawa) with mosses, liverworts and hornworts. Each volume contains descriptions in Japanese and about seventy color photographs showing the habits and habitats of various bryophytes. Latin names are provided with some of the pictures but not for all. Because of the superb quality of the photographs specialists unfamiliar with the Japanese language may have no difficulty recognizing many of the taxa depicted, however. The pictures were taken in Japan, Europe, Alaska, North America, tropi-

cal America, Fiji, etc. There is also a magnificent central photograph competing with the best of centre-folds; my favorite one is the mossy elfin forest dominated by *Herbertus* and *Plagiochila* in volume 137.

This publication is the ideal gift item for bryologists or others interested in the beautiful world of bryophytes.

S. Rob Gradstein.

David Eldridge and Merrin Tozer "A Practical Guide to Soil Lichens and Bryophytes of Australia's Dry Country". Available from: The Information Centre, Department of Land and Water Conservation, G.P.O. Box 39, Sydney, Australia, 2001 for Aust \$ 15.00 (add Aust \$2.00 for P & H).

This recently published book examines the common species found across Australia and is illustrated with over 50 colour photographs. This 80 page guide discusses i) the roles of biological soil crusts in dry environments, ii) the major components of the crust, iii) how to recognise individual species and iv) the effects of land use on crusts and the composite organisms. Keys are included for the common mosses, lichens and liverworts, as well as a glossary and bibliography.

This small book is aimed at botanists, naturalists, land managers and anyone interested in non-vascular plants and arid environments.

Revised Checklist of sub-Saharan African mosses

The African moss checklist was published just over two years ago, in *Tropical Bryology* 10. I have added data from over 70 papers since then, and so a new list has now been prepared, and is available for downloading from the BBS web home page. It will not be published in any other way.

Go to the BBS home page main menu (<http://www.rbge.org.uk/bbs/>) and take the selections for Tropical Bryology Group, Publications - all, and select document 51 (the last one). This con-

tains a link to allow a zipped Word 6 file to be downloaded. There is also a copy of an unzipping program to download, if needed. It prints to 127 A4-size pages, but is only 169,000 bytes to download.

Don't forget to pause along the way and have a look at the rest of the BBS site. You can now join the BBS on-line if you are happy to send your credit card number via the web.

If there is anyone who needs a copy of the revised checklist but lacks

Internet access, I will send a copy on disk if I am sent a blank diskette.

Many thanks to those of you who sent comments, corrections and additions to the previous list, and have answered queries for me subsequently. I will be producing future updates, so please provide feedback.

Brian O'Shea, 141 Fawnbrake Avenue, London SE24 0BG, UK, email: brian@oshea.demon.co.uk

Literature available from Station Scientifique des Hautes-Fagnes

Critical catalog of the liverworts (Anthocerotophyta and Marchantiophyta) of Auvergne (Cantal and Puy-de-Dôme, France). Catalogue critique des hépatiques (Anthocerotophyta et Marchantiophyta) de l'Auvergne (Cantal et Puy-de-Dôme, France) by R. Schumacker & J. Sapaly, (coll. I. Bisang, Ph. De Zuttere, J. Duda, A.-M. Mollet, A. Lecoite, R.B. Pierrot, M.A. Rogeon, S. Jovet-Ast & R. Skrzypczak). Published in: Documents de la Station scientifique des Hautes-Fagnes 25 (1996):130 p., 7 maps h.t., col. cov. plast. in 4°, paperbound. Price: 600 BEF (incl. p. & p.)

Summary: The hepaticological flora of the Auvergne (Cantal and Puy-de-Dôme departements) has been intensively studied during the last 20 years by numerous field surveys and by the revision of many herbaria and by an exhaustive survey of the literature. A comparison is made with the excellent catalog produced by Héribaud in 1899. After critical review, 189 hepatics are recognized in this territory (13,796 km²): 175 for Cantal and 168 for Puy-de-Dôme, 156 species (83 %) being common to both. Since 1899, the number of hepatics recorded has increased by 62 %.

This work, started in 1980, is based on ca. 7000 information units. It brings many novelties for this region: 27 species new for the Auvergne among which 12 are new for the Central Massif, 37 species new for the Puy-de-Dôme, and 21 new for the Cantal. On the other hand, 19 species mentioned in the literature appeared to be erroneous or extremely doubtful records.

Elements of bryofloristical and bryogeographical synthesis are drawn by comparison with neighbouring départements and other montane massifs of W-Europe. This shows the exceptional richness and uniqueness of the region. The richest sites are around

the major peaks: puy de Sancy (126 spec.), puy Mary (113 spec.), Lioran (104 spec.) and Plomb du Cantal (77 spec.) The importance of the alpine element s.l. (22 spec., 12,2 % of the hepaticoflora) in the highest parts and the penetration of the oceanic and mediterranean elements s.l. through the SW of the Cantal are underlined.

Some indications are given about the evolution of the hepaticological flora and attention is drawn to urgently needed better protection of some sites obviously exceptional, not only for France, but for Europe.

Elenco critico delle briofite delle Alpi Apuane (Toscana, Italia) A critical catalog of the bryophytes of the Apuans Alps (Toscane, Italy) by C. Cortini Pedrotti, R. Schumacker, M. Aleffi e E. Ferrarini coll. H. Bischler, J. Duda, S. Jovet-Ast, R. B. Pierrot H. & R. Ochrya, P. Szmajda e J. Váňa published in Bulletin de la Société royale des Sciences de Liège 60 (1991: 149-361). In 8° paperbound. Price: 500 BEF (incl. p. & p.)

Summary: A critical catalog of the bryophytes of the Apuan Alps (Toscane, Italy). - After a general introduction on the Apuan Alps and their bryological survey, a catalog, based on data from the literature, on the revision of some 4000 herbarium collections and on recent collections made by the authors,

is provided. It examines critically:

145 species of liverworts and hornworts were previously recorded among which 17 were erroneously mentioned. The hepaticological flora of the Apuan Alps comprises now 128 species, among which 25 have been discovered thanks to our research. Sixteen species are new for Toscane and 17 more, considered as doubtful until recently, are confirmed. One species, *Diplophyllum obtusatum*, is new for Europe.

344 mosses were recorded among which 16 were erroneously mentioned and 28 are doubtful. Today, the moss flora of the Apuan Alps comprises 300 species, among which 28 have been discovered thanks to our research. Furthermore, some species are new for Toscane. The phytogeographical spectra of the bryoflora are established.

Finally, the origin of the most remarkable elements, e.g. especially the oceanic-macaronesian element, is discussed at length. On the bases of paleoclimatical and paleoecological arguments, the authors consider that the species of this element could not survive in the Apuans Alps during the last glaciation, but came back during the Postglacial.

Both books can be ordered with a Eurocheque labelled in BEF or International transfer (+ transfer charges for you) payable to R. Schumacker, 620 Becco, B-4010 Theux, Belgium.

Please Reply!

With the last issue of the Bryological Times, we sent out a yellow form for an update of addresses. If you would like to be included among the addresses to bryologists published shortly by IAB and put on their web site for easy access, please reply quickly! Send the yellow form to Sandi Vitt, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2E9, Canada, as soon as possible.

Fellowship Opportunities at UC Berkeley

The University of California, Berkeley, has recently been awarded a PEET grant from the National Science Foundation. This grant is similar in nature to the two bryophyte PEET grants previously funded at the Missouri Botanical Garden and Southern Illinois University; a detailed explanation of the PEET program can be viewed on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.nhm.ukans.edu/~peet/>

The UC Berkeley PEET grant focuses on the tropical moss family Calymperaceae, and involves studies on three levels: (1) The circumscription and higher-level relationships of the family; (2) Relationships of the genera (and major sections) within the family (the major goal being to verify the monophyly of *Mitthyridium* and select a few other monophyletic subgroups of the family for monographic study); (3) Species delimitations and relationships within the selected subgroups (e.g., *Mitthyridium*) culminating in world monographs. At all these levels, but particularly in the latter, we are also considering biological, ecological and geographic factors influencing diversification. This research involves field and herbarium studies to discover and refine taxonomic characters. Laboratory studies including SEM, morphometrics, culture studies, and DNA sequencing are being used to supplement the morphological data.

The project includes training at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels, and funds are available for stipends and research expenses at all these levels. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the PI, Brent Mishler, at bmishler@socrates.berkeley.edu for further information on timing and availability of positions.

Of particular urgency are applications for graduate school. A graduate research fellowship for a Ph.D. student working on this research is available beginning in Fall, 1998. The Depart-

The Moss Flora of Suriname completed

S. Rob Gradstein

Albrecht von Haller Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Göttingen, Untere Karspüle 2, D-37073 Göttingen, Germany

Attention is drawn to the publication of the third and final part of the Moss Flora of Suriname (Leucomiaceae to Hypnaceae), by Jeanne Florschütz-de Waard and collaborators (Florschütz-de Waard 1996). With the appearance of this volume the life-time work by the late Peter Florschütz (1923-1976) and his wife on the mosses of the Guianas - French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname - has come to a completion. It is a reason to look back at the history of this publication.

Work by the Florschützes on the mosses of Suriname dates back to the 1940's when Peter began examining moss collections from this country in the Herbarium of the University of Utrecht, as part of his study for the masters degree in biology. The Flora of Suriname, edited by A. A. Pulle and his successor J. Lanjouw, was the principal research project at the Utrecht Herbarium at that time and a considerable amount of bryophyte material had accumulated that had never been worked up. Most of these collections had only been collected incidentally by phanerogamists and were far from representative. Another problem was the serious lack of literature on the mosses of region. The last paper enumerating the

moss species known from Suriname, the *Prodromus Florae Bryologicae Surinamensis* by Dozy and Molkenboer (Haarlem 1854), was almost a hundred years old and was seriously outdated. There was no Flora for South American mosses and naming of collections was only possible by consulting the world treatment of the mosses by Brotherus in Engler & Prantl's *Natürliche Pflanzenfamilien* (Leipzig 1924-25) and by examination of type specimens.

The backward state of knowledge prompted Peter Florschütz to undertake a critical treatment of the mosses of the region as a thesis for his PhD. From October 1950 until May 1951 he undertook a collecting trip to Suriname, accompanied by his wife Jeanne whom he had married the year before, and gathered a large amount of material. The working up of these collections and other ones available from the region was a very tedious job and type revisions were prepared for every genus occurring in the area. The first part of Moss Flora of Suriname, containing the acrocarps and the beginning of the pleurocarps (Sphagnaceae to Meteoriaceae) appeared in 1964 and was defended with honors on the 29th June (Florschütz 1964). The work contained an introduction to bryophyte collecting in the region and an exhaustive listing, by country, of papers on the mosses of Latin America. Although outdated, the list is still a useful guide to the older literature. In all, 134 species in 46 genera were recognized and treated in detail, including those of neighbouring Guyana (former British Guiana) and French Guiana which have a very similar flora. The largest genus treated was *Fissidens* (17 species); the taxonomic problems encountered in dealing with this difficult group were discussed in a thought-provoking introductory chap-

ment of Integrative Biology admits graduate students for study once a year, and applications must be postmarked on or before December 15, 1997 to be considered for admission for Fall, 1998. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) should be taken in October 1997 at the latest. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is an additional requirement for foreign applicants.

To receive graduate application materials, contact Joan Lubenow, Graduate Admission Coordinator for Integrative Biology, phone (510) 643-5125, or email jmlubenw@uclink2.berkeley.edu, immediately.

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ter on species concepts and species delimitation in mosses.

In the years following the appearance of part I, little progress was made on the Moss Flora of Suriname, due mainly to Peter's increasing teaching and administrative duties and because his prime research interest had switched towards the flora of Colombia. After his untimely death in 1976, Jeanne undertook the task of completing the various research projects that were left unfinished. Like her husband, she had been trained as a botanist in Utrecht in the 1940's and in 1950/51 had joined him on the trip to Suriname. In subsequent years taking care of the family allowed her little time for bryological work but after their three children had grown up she began catching up with research again (e.g., Florschütz & Florschütz-de Waard 1974).

In 1976 Jeanne Florschütz became an honorary associate researcher at the Herbarium of the University of Utrecht and since then she has dedicated herself to the study of neotropical mosses. A catalogue of the mosses of Colombia, published jointly with her late husband, appeared in 1979 and the second part of the Moss Flora of Suriname (Neckeraceae-Hookeriaceae-Plagiotheciaceae) in 1986. The format of the second part (Florschütz-de Waard 1986) was essentially similar to that of the first one, but a considerably larger amount of material had been examined. Following the launching of the Flora of the Guianas series in 1985, a joint publication of the Herbaria of Berlin-Dahlem, Cayenne, Georgetown, Kew, New York, Paramaribo, Paris, Utrecht and Washington, plant collecting in the region intensified considerably and this resulted in an ever-increasing flow of new moss collections sent to Utrecht for identification. All of these were processed and identified and as a result of this the Guianan moss collections in Utrecht grew to become the largest in the world. Jeanne herself participated actively in the fieldwork, took part in an expedition to West Suriname (Florschütz-de Waard & Bekker 1987) and

made several collecting trips to French Guiana and Guyana. According to a recent census, 238 moss species are known from the Guianas (Florschütz-de Waard 1990, 1992), including many that are additions to parts 1 and 2 of the Moss Flora of Suriname.

The present, third part of the Moss Flora of Suriname deals with the Leucomiaceae (by K. Veling), the Thuidiaceae (by R. Zielman), the Sematophyllaceae and the Hypnaceae (in all 36 species, in 18 genera). Because the Flora of Suriname series was discontinued in the late 1980's and as collections of Guyana and French Guiana were also included, this part has been published in the Flora of the Guianas (Serie C: Bryophytes). The format is basically that of the first two parts but important literature to families, a list of accepted taxa and an index to collections studied were added. Species treatments include full bibliographic citation and mention of types and important synonymy, morphological description, line drawings (habit, details), general distribution as well as distribution and ecology in the Guianas, citation of specimens examined, and critical notes on species recognition. For each family, keys to the genera and species are provided. A very welcome chapter is the Key to the Genera of Mosses of the Guianas, which allows the identification of all the 81 genera described in parts 1-3 of the Flora as well as the additional ones that were newly discovered in the region (*Archidium*, *Floribundaria*, *Helicophyllum*, *Jaegerina*, *Leiomela*, *Mniomalia*, *Polytrichum*, *Renauldia*, *Trichostomum*). These new additions will be treated in a forthcoming supplementary part, which will provide an updated overview of the moss flora of the Guianas (Florschütz-de Waard, in prep.).

The Guianas are primarily a low-elevation area (most of the land is below 1000 m) and are one of the world's few areas still covered by vast tracts of pristine rain forests. The flora is very similar to that of the forests of the Amazon basin and bryogeographically the region is part of larger Amazonia. The avail-

ability of a complete moss flora for the Guianas is a great asset for research in this area and the work is indispensable for studies on moss diversity of the South American rain forests. Fortunately, the times when one relied upon Brotherus for naming the mosses of this region are now gone. Jeanne Florschütz is to be congratulated with her achievement and is to be thanked for having enriched the bryological literature with a splendid work on tropical mosses.

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The Bryological Times is a newsletter published bimonthly for the *International Association of Bryologists*. Items for publication are to be sent to the Editors (preferably HW), except for those for the regular columns, which may go direct to the column editors

Deadlines for material to the *Bryol. Times* will be January 15, March 15, May 15, July 15, September 15 and November 15 with the publication shortly afterwards. Shorter notes may be accepted later if there is still space.

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J.-P. Frahm & B. O'Shea (computer techniques); T. Hallingbäck (conservation); A. R. Perry (news from the herbaria); T. Pócs (tropical bryology); J. Vána (floristics and phytogeography).

The Bryological Times, founded in 1980 by Stanley Wilson Greene (1928-1989), is distributed from Canberra (Australia), Edmonton (Canada), Eger (Hungary), Geneva (Switzerland), Hiroshima (Japan), Moscow (Russia), Praha (Czech Republic), Reading (U.K.), Shenyang (China), St. Louis (USA) and Trondheim (Norway).

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For details regarding membership of to *International Association of Bryologists* (currently US \$ 11.- per year) write to Dale H. Vitt, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E9.

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DIARY

1998

January 8-12. International Conference on the Developmental Biology, Physiology and Molecular Biology of Bryophytes in Mumbai, India. Contact person: Prof. M. M. Johri, MOSSES 1998, Molecular Biology Unit, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Homi Bhabha Road, Mumbai 400 005, India, Fax: 91(22)215-2110 Phone: 91(22)215-2971, Email: Mosses1998@tifrvax.tifr.res.in or mmjohri@tifrvax.tifr.res.in

March/April (date to be decided). BBS Spring Field Meeting in Basse Normandie, France. Local Secretary: Dr. Jeff Bates, Dept of Biology, Imperial College at Silwood Park, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7PY. Tel.: 01344 23911. Fax: 01344 294339. email: J.Bates@ic.ac.uk.

August 31-September 4. 3rd European Conference on the Conservation of Bryophytes. The Scientific Basis for Bryophyte Conservation. Trondheim, Norway. Information from Lars Söderström, Dept. of Botany, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, N-7055 Dragvoll, Norway. Tel. +47 73596061. Fax: +47 73596100. Email: Lars.Soderstrom@chembio.ntnu.no.

I have moved

Dear Colleagues and friends,

I am writing to inform all of you about my recent change of job and address. I have decided to take a tenure-track teaching position at the National University of Singapore and moved back to Asia where I started my career. Please note my new postal address in Singapore attached to this message. For those who wish to reach me faster, please send me a message by email: sbsbct@nus.edu.sg. During the move, I have been remiss for not answering some mails and requests for reprints. I apologize for my silence for a while among the bryological community.

While based in Singapore, I shall continue to pursue my research/study on the systematics (primarily Sematophyllaceae and Hookeriaceae), floristics, biogeography and conservation of Asiatic mosses. Now that I am based in a third world country with no access to the excellent library of Farlow Herbarium of Harvard University, I would very much in need of

your kind support in sending me reprints of your recent publications which I will reciprocate with my owns and, maybe, with moss specimens from SE Asia either for your experiment or herbarium exchange. The library of the National University of Singapore has subscriptions only for *The Bryologist* and the *Journal of Bryology*. However, the department has budget for staff members to send out reprints on exchange basis so that I should be able to mail regularly my reprints from now on to people who request them. I hope that with your support and encouragement, I can continue to contribute to the knowledge of Asiatic mosses.

Thanks to all of you,

Benito Tan

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