

BRITISH BRYOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President: A.J.Pettifer, B.Sc.

Bulletin No. 15, November 1970

1. Increase in annual subscription

At the Extraordinary General Meeting held at Sheffield on October 24th 1970, it was agreed that the annual subscription for ordinary members of the British Bryological Society should be raised to £3 - 10 - 0, starting on January 1st 1971.

It is much regretted that this increase should be necessary, but unexpectedly severe increases in the publishing costs of the Transactions have made it unavoidable.

If any members receive this Bulletin after their subscription for 1971 has been paid (e.g. by Bankers' Order), please will they pay the extra promptly to the Treasurer (Mr R.D.Fitzgerald, Idylwild, St Georges Road, HEXHAM, Northumberland), who will also be able to supply new Bankers' Order forms.

The Treasurer points out that the British Bryological Society was approved in 1959 for the purposes of what is now Section 192 Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, whereby members who are professional botanists may claim relief on income tax in connection with their annual subscriptions.

2. Future meetings

- (a) Easter Field Meeting and Annual General Meeting 1971 : Dulverton, Somerset, March 31 - April 7, 1971.

Local Secretary: Mrs J.Appleyard  
Sunnyside  
West Horrington  
WELLS  
Somerset

Headquarters hotel: The Lamb, Dulverton, Somerset (Mr Liley)  
16 single rooms including the annexe a short distance up the street. 17½ gns per week full board (16½ gns in the annexe): 55/- dinner, bed and breakfast (52/6 in the annexe): 7/6 packed lunch: 19/6 dinner (non-residents can arrange to have a 3-course dinner for 15/6).  
These are special terms quoted for B.B.S. members only, so please be sure to mention the B.B.S. when booking in order to benefit by these terms.

A room will be available in the Hotel for Council Meetings and for the A.G.M. on April 3, 1971.

Other accommodation:

The Lion Hotel, Dulverton (Mr and Mrs Hoar)  
5 single rooms: 17 gns per week full board; 32/6 bed and breakfast; 16/- dinner (1970 prices).

The Rock, Dulverton (Mrs Sprague)  
1-3? single rooms; 7 gns per week, bed and breakfast; 25/- bed and breakfast, no dinner (1970 prices).

Bed and breakfast accommodation:

Mrs Bowden, Kennel Farm nr Dulverton.

Mrs Cleeve, 1, Pound Cottage, Dulverton.

Mrs A. Chilcock, Dulverton.

Mrs Puttock, nr the Laundry, Dulverton.

The nearest Youth Hostel is at Bampton, 5 miles to the south.

Excursions will probably include visits to the calcareous coastal strip east of Blue Anchor, wooded coastal ravines, Tarr Steps, Hadde Valley, Exmoor and the Quantocks. There are numerous wooded valleys in the area which invite exploration. All 10 km grid squares need mapping.

The relevant 1 inch O.S. maps are sheets 163 and 164.

Members who will be attending the meeting are asked to inform Mrs Appleyard as Local Secretary, giving the following details:

- (a) where they will be staying
- (b) duration of stay
- (c) if they have transport for use during the meeting and how many passengers (if any) they are prepared to take.

Excursions are expected to leave the Lamb Hotel daily at 9.45 a.m., but full details will be sent to those writing to Mrs Appleyard to say that they will be attending the meeting.

- (b) Summer Meeting, 1971 : probably based on Galashiels, Selkirk shire, proposed dates August 28 - September 4, 1971.
- (c) Autumn meeting, 1971 : Cambridge, October 23 - 24, 1971.

Local secretary: Dr H.L.K. Whitehouse  
Botany School  
Downing Street  
CAMBRIDGE

### 3. Other field meetings, 1971

The Secretary, Dr D.H. Dalby, will be leading a field meeting in Snowdonia from April 7 - 14, 1971, based on the Field Studies Council centre at Betws-y-Coed. The emphasis during the meeting will be on aspects of bryophyte ecology, but help will be given in the identification of the easier species. Enquiries should be made to the Secretary with regard to the content of the course, and booking and domestic queries to:

The Warden  
Drapers' Field Centre  
Rhyd-y-Creiau  
BETWS-Y-COED  
Caerns.

Publicity will be given in this Bulletin to any other courses or field meetings relating to bryophytes if they are sent to the Secretary for inclusion in the next issue.

### 4. Philonotis in the I.O.W.

Mr J.H. Field (34 Wells Green Road, SOLIHULL, Warwickshire) asks whether any members of the B.B.S. who have collected Philonotis from Shanklin Chine, I.O.W. in recent years, would let him examine their material.

## 5. Moss Flora of the Pacific North West

Dr S.Hattori announces the forthcoming publication (May 1971) by the Hattori Botanical Laboratory, of the Moss Flora of the Pacific Northwest by Dr Elva Lawton.

The area covered is Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana, Wyoming and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta through the Rocky Mountains and north to about the fifty-second parallel.

This fully illustrated work runs to approximately 350 pages, and will be priced at 36 U.S.dollars (pre-publication, cash with order), and about 42 U.S.dollars (after publication). Both prices include postage.

## 6. Richard Spruce: a proposed memorial

Richard Spruce (1817-1893) was one of the greatest traveller-naturalists of the last century. His immense contributions to knowledge of tropical South American botany are unlikely ever to be equalled by any other one man. Though his achievements are enshrined in the annals of botanical exploration, his name has never been adequately honoured, even in the native Yorkshire village to which he returned after fourteen years in the Amazon Valley and Andes and where he continued, in shattered health, to devote all his energies to the study of his collections.

We propose that a memorial plaque be placed on the cottage at Coneysthorpe in which Spruce spent the last thirty years of his life. Many botanists, we feel sure, will wish to be associated with this commemoration of a humble and unassuming man who received during his lifetime so little formal recognition but whose character and achievements alike compel international admiration.

Contributions, made out to "Spruce Memorial Fund" may be sent to:  
Dr W.A.Sledge  
Department of Botany  
The University  
LEEDS 2  
England

Funds in excess of those needed for the preparation and placement of a memorial plaque will be employed for the publication or re-issue of some of Spruce's writings.

Erik Asplund (Stockholm)	Richard E.Schultes (Harvard)
Graziela M.Barroso (Rio de Janeiro)	W.Arthur Sledge (Leeds)
Alvaro Fernandez-Perez (Bogota)	William T.Stearn (London)
Gunnar Harling (Göteborg)	William C.Steere (New York)
George Howard (Castle Howard)	Frans Verdoorn (Utrecht)
Harold E.Moore Jr.(Cornell)	British Bryological Society
Paul Richards (Bangor)	Yorkshire Naturalists' Union

## 7. Honorary membership of the B.B.S.

Professor P.W.Richards was elected an Honorary Member of the B.B.S. at the Annual General Meeting held at Beddgelert in April this year. Professor Richards has made many contributions to bryology, in particular through his studies of tropical (especially African) bryophytes. Papers in this Society's journal on Campylopus and Calypogeia show however that he has not neglected our own flora, and his development of an active school of bryophyte taxonomy and ecology at Bangor is confirmation of this.

## 8. B.B.S. Distribution Maps Scheme

Bryophyte record cards for listing the bryophytes in the 10 km squares of the National Grid are available from the Mapping Secretary, Dr A.J.E. Smith (School of Plant Biology, University College of North Wales, BANGOR, Caerns) at 3/6d post free, for a dozen. Any member interested in participating in the mapping scheme should contact Dr Smith from whom further information may be obtained. Sets of distribution maps already published in the B.B.S. Transactions are also available from the Mapping Secretary.

## 9. Local herbaria etc.

Anyone with knowledge or details of local biological collections (not necessarily of bryophytes), especially collections in out-of-the-way or relatively unvisited museums etc. is asked to contact John Heath at the Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Hunts.

## 10. Conservation

The Secretary represented the Society at a meeting of the British Lichen Society's sites committee at Kings College London on Sept. 25th, 1970, and of the national biological societies at Juniper Hall Field Centre on Oct. 24th 1970. He has also circulated members of Council for their views on a suggested collaboration in the production of a book (publication to be sponsored by the S.P.N.R.) giving the status etc. (though not localities) of rare bryophytes in Britain. Of the 14 replies received, 12 were in favour (5 of these with reservations), and one was against the idea altogether.

In summary the main points emerging from the above are:

(a) Greater emphasis needs to be given to non-flowering plants when sites of natural history interest are being considered for conservation measures. The B.B.S. and B.L.S. are clearly jointly involved here.

(b) Distribution maps are invaluable in assessing present status, past changes and possible causes for say a species' decline. Our mapping scheme should be pursued vigorously, and as much support as possible given by members.

(c). Tree epiphytes are very valuable in providing quick and inexpensive guides to general air pollution patterns, and can be used for primary survey work over large areas.

(d). The B.B.S. should collaborate with the S.P.N.R. in producing a book roughly along the lines of Demaret & Lambinon, Plantes rares, disparues ou menacees de disparition en Belgique. Bryophytes. 1969, including details of status, history and stability of populations, susceptibility to damage from threats to the environment etc., for rare British bryophytes.

(e) The Conservation Liaison Committee of the S.P.N.R. is preparing a general Code of Conduct for naturalists in the field, the ultimate objective being a 2-tier code, a simple one for schools etc., and a more technical one for each Society, where the plant groups are dealt with individually. The B.B.S. has made its first move here in abolishing its annual distribution of specimens, but the implications of this need to be thought out more fully, especially since beginners need help with authentically named material.

## 11. Agenda for A.G.M. 1971

The Agenda for next year's Annual General Meeting on April 3rd 1971 will be distributed with the next Bulletin, no. 16.

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Hon. Secretary, B.B.S.  
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