

Pictures of Bryophytes

Mosses and Liverworts
in their Natural Habitat
Europe HD

Michael Lüth 2014

New DVD of bryophytes in their natural habitat

Michael Lüth. 2014. *Pictures of bryophytes. Mosses and liverworts in their natural habitat - Europe HD*. DVD with 5799 pictures in jpg format. Obtainable from Michael Lüth (mail@milueth.de), price 40 euro (+ 5 euro postage for addresses outside Germany). Payment can be made by Paypal.

Many readers of *Field Bryology* will be familiar with Michael Lüth's splendid pictures of bryophytes, whether on his website (www.milueth.de) or in his Atlas of German mosses (*Bildatlas der Moose Deutschlands*). In his Bildatlas the emphasis was on illustrating the morphological characters of species. His new DVD has a different concept: it aims to show bryophytes in their natural habitat, both in the context of the wider landscape and in close-up detail. For each species there are multiple images, taken from different distances and perspectives. The images are in jpg format at a resolution of 1920 x 1080 pixels, thereby enabling them to be viewed on full screen without loss of definition.

The disk contains images of some 900 species, along with a short text file containing brief

BookReview

◀ Cover picture of the DVD, showing *Tetraplodon paradoxus*

technical details and a list of the territories visited in acquiring the images (over a period of 5 years). Many of the localities are in central Europe, but others range from the Arctic (Svalbard and Murmansk) to southern Portugal, the Mediterranean region (Mallorca) and the Balkans (Albania). Some of the photos were taken in Britain, partly in Scotland and partly during the BBS meeting in Wharfedale in 2011. As each picture is a separate jpg file there is no index or bookmarking on the disk, so the contents must be viewed using Windows File Explorer or an equivalent. The country of origin of each photo is not superimposed on the image but can be found in the properties of the individual jpg. Users should be aware that species are not always filed under current nomenclature. Thus *Palustriella* species are found under *Cratoneuron*, *Syntrichia* species under *Tortula*, and *Microbryum curvicolle* under *Phascum curvicolle* (although *Microbryum* is used for *M. fosbergii*). A few of the species names are mis-spelled. A full list of the included species can be found on Michael's website but is not present in text form on the disc. Being in jpg format the pictures can readily be copied, and while they remain the copyright of Michael Lüth they are freely available for non-commercial use.

Unlike the Bildatlas, the disc includes a large selection of liverworts as well as mosses. The number of pictures per species varies from two to at least 18 (*Andreaea nivalis*). Although the pictures are not primarily intended as identification aids, they provide excellent images of numerous European species and will be very helpful as a guide to their overall appearance. It is not always possible to observe key diagnostic characters, but I noticed one mis-identified species: "*Odontoschisma denudatum* 003d" is



surely *Myliia anomala*. I don't have the expertise to judge the technical quality of the photographs and I view them through the eyes of a bryologist with a love of natural habitats. Many of the images are stunning. I particularly like those showing species in the wider landscape, e.g. the picture of *Cinclidotus fontinaloides* in Yorkshire, or the spectacular habitat of *Orthothecium chryseon* on Svalbard. Some of the close-up images are also superb, like the very crisp "*Buxbaumia viridis* 003h" and the extraordinary "*Exormotheca*

welwitschii 001d". Thallose liverworts come out well, and there is a mouth-watering sequence of *Riccia* species. I can heartily recommend this disc to anyone who appreciates bryophytes, or who would like a bit of vicarious enjoyment of bryological travel around Europe, sometimes in remote and spectacular places.

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△Above: *Exormotheca welwitschii* in Portugal, from the DVD.

▽Below: Habitat of *Orthothecium chryseon* in Svalbard, from the DVD.

