

BBS Spring Meeting 2015 Freiburg, South-west Germany

12-17 April 2015

Tom Blockeel and
David Long report on
last year's additional
Spring Meeting

△Fig. 1. Examining Loess banks near Bötzingen. D.G. Long

The spring meeting at Freiburg was organised by Michael Lüth, who will be known to many BBS members for his outstanding photographs of bryophytes, both published and on-line. Michael's home is in Freiburg, and he has an intimate knowledge of the local flora. Our group numbered 12, and was multi-national. In addition to Michael, the participants were: Tom Blockeel, Michael Girnt, Lars Großmann, Thomas Kiebacher, Liz Kungu, Felix Lindicke, David Long, Caroline Pannell, Gordon Rothero, Henk Siebel and Senta Stix. In addition, Alfons Schäfer-Verwimp joined us on our excursion to Feldsee. The first half of the meeting was based at Bötzingen in the Kaiserstuhl region, and most of us stayed at Hotel Krone in the village. For the second half of the week we moved on to the Hinterzarten area in the southern Black Forest.

April 12

Our first day began with a gentle walk around Bötzingen in glorious sunshine, mainly on lanes through the vineyards around the town. The substrate is calcareous loess, which is exposed on laneside banks and around the vineyards (Fig. 1). It supports many species of southern and sub-continental affinities. Among them are some of

▽Fig. 2. *Pterygoneurum lamellatum*. H. Siebel





Britain's rarest bryophytes, including *Lophozia perssonii*, *Aloina rigida*, *Didymodon cordatus*, *Tortula vahlbiana*, *Pterygoneurum ovatum* and *P. lamellatum* (Fig. 2), along with some rather more familiar species such as *Campylophyllum calcareum*, *Microbryum curvicolle* and *Tortula protobryoides*. *Sphaerocarpos michelii* was found in one place. Epiphytes were of interest: *Orthotrichum pumilum* and *O. schimperi* occurred on vine stocks, and *O. patens* (not yet known in Britain) was demonstrated on the bole of a large tree. Towards the end of our circuit, Michael showed us one of the few regional sites for *Crossidium squamiferum*, on a roadside cliff to the east of Bötzingen.

In the afternoon there was time to visit a second venue, at Schelingen, Ohrberg, a short drive from Bötzingen. The main interest here is a long disused vulcanite quarry. The path to the quarry took us through woodland, with some familiar species on tree boles: *Porella platyphylla*, *Isoetecium alopecuroides*, *Homalia trichomanoides* and *Leucodon sciuroides*. Grassland around the quarry held *Abietinella abietina* and *Rhytidium rugosum*, and was the first of several sites visited that provided a fine display of pasque flowers (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*). The old quarry has several notable bryophytes, including *Gymnostomum viridulum*, *Pleurochaete squarrosa*, *Schistidium brunnescens*, *S. helveticum* and an odd *Tortella*, probably a form of *T. inclinata*. On rocky slopes near the quarry, under Michael's guidance, we were able to see several patches of the xerophytic thallose liverwort, *Mannia fragrans*, at one of its few regional sites. On our return to the car park, ice creams were available for welcome refreshment at the end of a very warm spring day.



△Clockwise from top left; Fig. 3. View of the Kaiserstuhl countryside. D.G. Long. Fig. 4. *Entosthodon fascicularis*. M. Lüth. Fig. 5. The descent to Altvogtsburg. M. Lüth

April 13

This day took us on a tour of several interesting sites in the Kaiserstuhl area (Fig. 3). We spent the morning at Badberg, not far from the previous day's venue at Schelingen, and likewise on vulcanite. The habitat was calcareous grassland with a very rich vascular plant flora. Bryophytes in the turf included *Abietinella abietina*, *Brachythecium glareosum*, *Entodon concinnus*, *Rhytidium rugosum*, *Thuidium assimile*, and in slightly moister niches *Hylocomium splendens* and *Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus*. A notable find by Michael on a bare patch of soil was *Entosthodon fascicularis* (Fig. 4), the first record in the region for many years, and other gaps in the turf produced *Rhodobryum roseum* and *Weissia longifolia*. The descent from the top of Badberg to Altvogtsburg took us down a steep rocky slope, with *Grimmia tergestina* on the outcrops (Fig. 5).



We moved on to Merdingen at Tuniberg, for lunch at the top of a steep loess bank above a vineyard, where we assembled for a group photograph (Fig. 6). The highlights on the loess were *Crossidium crassinerve*, a southern species near the northern limit of its range in Europe, and a large population of *Tortella inclinata*, along with other species that we had seen at Bötzingen. From here we drove to another loess bank on a roadside at Berg, between Munzingen and Oberrimsingen. This was a known site for *Pterygoneurum sessile*, a distinctive species with sessile capsules that some of us were keen to see. It was duly found and admired. *Acaulon triquetrum* was also found here, and flowering plant interest was provided by *Anemone sylvatica*. The next stop was at Biengen to admire *Grimmia crinita* on the rendering of the old wall of a vineyard (Fig. 7). *G. ovata* and *G. laevigata* were on roof tiles nearby. Our final stop was at the Hauptfriedhof cemetery in Freiburg, where we visited the grave of Karl Müller, one of Europe's greatest hepaticologists and author of the classic

Die Lebermoose Europas, published in 1951-1958 (Fig. 8). But there was other bryological interest in the cemetery, too. It is possibly the last remaining site for *Entodon schleicheri* in the Freiburg area, growing remarkably on the top of an asbestos roof (Fig. 9). Michael told us that it was formerly more widespread on old concrete fortifications by the Rhine. Also in the cemetery were some interesting epiphytes: *Orthotrichum obtusifolium*, *O. patens* and *Syntrichia pagorum*, a small moss variously treated as a distinct species or a form of *S. laevipila*. A very fine *Magnolia* attracted a lot of interest (Fig. 10).

April 14

Our first venue on this day was the east bank of the River Rhine at Isteiner Schwellen near the village of Istein, a series of rapids with exposed rocks (Fig. 11). The rocks provided the opportunity to compare three species of *Cinclidotus*: *C. fontinaloides*, *C. riparius* and *C. danubicus*. They also supported *Bryum gemmiparum*. On boulders further back from the

△Clockwise from top left; Fig. 6. Group photograph. Back: Gordon Rothero, Thomas Kiebacher, Tom Blockeel, Liz Kungu, Lars Großmann, Henk Siebel, David Long. Front: Senta Stix, Caroline Pannell, Michael Lüth, Michael Girnt, Felix Lindicke. M. Lüth. Fig. 7. *Grimmia crinita* at Biengen. M. Lüth. Fig. 8. Karl Müller's grave. D.G. Long. Fig. 9. Habitat of *Entodon schleicheri* in the cemetery. T.L. Blockeel. Fig. 10. Thomas is enthusiastic about epiphytes on *Magnolia*. M. Lüth. Fig. 11. Comparing *Cinclidotus* species at Isteiner Schwellen. M. Lüth. Fig. 12. Looking for *Orthotrichum rogeri* under the cherry blossom at Schönbühl. M. Lüth. Fig. 13. *Orthotrichum rogeri*. H. Siebel. Fig. 14. The old farmhouse, Mathiselmühle. T.L. Blockeel





water, above normal flood levels, there were some nice patches of *Anomodon attenuatus* and even one of *Pseudoleskeella catenulata*. From here we moved on to the nearby Isteiner Klotz, a ridge of Jurassic limestone. *Rhynchostegium rotundifolium* was the highlight here, growing on the side of a limestone boulder. *Plasteurhynchium striatulum* and *Schistidium elegantulum* were also present.

We spent the afternoon at Berghäuser Kapelle, Schönberg, in an orchard of widely spaced cherry trees with some thickets of blackthorn (Fig. 12). It is a perfect classroom for lessons on *Orthotrichum*, with at least 8 epiphytic species of the genus present. Michael had previously found *O. rogeri* here and mapped its occurrence in detail, but it required some practice before we were able to detect it among all the other species present on the trees. *O. rogeri* is one of the rarer species of the genus in Europe, its localities being thinly scattered, and even at Schönberg it was not abundant, tending to occur as solitary small tufts (Fig. 13). A single tuft has recently been found in Sussex by Sam Bosanquet, so it was





△Fig. 15. In the ravine at Lotenbach. M. Lüth. Fig. 16. Habitat of *Scapania apiculata* at Lotenbach. D.G. Long. Fig. 17. Feldsee, with Seebuck beyond. M. Lüth

useful to get our eyes in for it.

From Schönberg we moved on to our second base for the week's meeting at Mathislemühle in the Black Forest, a traditional timber-built farmhouse now converted for use as a field centre with bunk-based accommodation (Fig. 14). It is beautifully located in the forest, and a few lingering patches of snow nearby reminded us that we had moved to a different climatic zone.

April 15

The Black Forest offered some very different habitats from those that we had explored at Kaiserstuhl. Our first site was Lotenbachklamm, a wooded ravine on gneiss but with some exposures of calcareous rock. We entered the ravine from the top (Fig. 15). The woodland flora included many familiar species. *Bartramia halleriana* and *Trichocolea tomentella* were among the early finds. The *Eurhynchium* on the ground, however, was not our familiar *E. striatum*, but the continental *E. angustirete*, which has more broadly pointed leaves. The site is known for its rich bryophyte communities on rotting wood (Fig. 16), particularly a tiny gemmiferous *Scapania*, *S. apiculata*, which we saw in rather small quantity, as well as *Buxbaumia viridis* and old friends such as *Riccardia palmata* and *Nowellia curvifolia*. Calicoles on the rock walls included *Pedinophyllum interruptum*, *Distichium inclinatum* (not recorded here for almost 50 years), *Plagiopus oederianus* and *Platydictya jungermannioides*.

Brief visits were made to two further sites in the afternoon. The first, at Schluchsee, was an area of lightly wooded boulder scree, notable for an abundance of *Racomitrium microcarpum*, and a luxuriance of other species, including *Anastrepta orcadensis*, *Cynodontium strumiferum*, *Paraleucobryum longifolium* and much *Ptilidium pulcherrimum* (growing on both rocks and logs). The second site, Rotmeer, was a small but very interesting mire in spruce forest, notable in its wettest part for some stands of *Sphagnum majus*, with *S. magellanicum*, *S. fuscum*, *Calypogeia neesiana* and *Dicranum undulatum* nearby. Two mire species unfamiliar to British bryologists were *Pohlia sphagnicola* (a close relative of *P. nutans*) and *Lophozia laxa*.



△Fig. 18 left. Native sycamore woodland on the slopes below Seebuck. M. Lüth. Fig. 19 right. *Brachythecium geheebii*. H. Seibel

April 16

Feldsee, a lake of glacial origin, is one of the classic bryological sites in the Black Forest. The lake, at ca 1100 m altitude, is backed by steep craggy slopes, and the bedrock is gneiss. On the day of our visit, the summit of Seebuck (1448m) above the lake was still snow-covered but the wooded slopes by the lake were largely clear (Fig. 17). Alfons Schäfer-Verwimp joined us for the day's excursion. The craggy slopes were rich in *Grimmia* species, including *G. elatior*, *G. elongata* and *G. unicolor*, and also had *Amphidium lapponicum*. Some time was spent searching for *Eremonotus myriocarpus*, previously recorded from this site, but all the promising candidates turned out to be *Cephaloziella*. Perhaps the greatest bryological interest was on the wooded slopes, where mixed forest occurs, with some stands of native sycamore (Fig. 18). Of particular note on small boulders are communities that include *Anomodon rugelii*, *Brachythecium geheebii* (Fig. 19) and *Thamnobryum neckeroides* (Fig. 20), the latter a rare species in Europe (and not at all like a *Neckera*!). Among the many other species in the rocky woodland were *Bazzania flaccida*, *Calypogeia suecica* (on a log), *Paraleucobryum sauteri*, *Serpoleskea subtilis* (on tree boles) and *Sciuro-hypnum reflexum*, as well as a long list of other species more familiar to us in Britain. *Buxbaumia viridis* was found again on logs, and David and Tom successfully searched an exposed part of the lake margin for *Haplomitrium hookeri*.

Late in the day, a brief visit was made to a mire at Hirschenmoor, Oberhöllsteig, to look for *Sphagnum balticum*, but all the candidate shoots turned out to be *S. angustifolium*.

April 17

Our final day offered another marked change of habitat, sandstone rocks in the Tennenbach area of the middle Black Forest. The drive there led us back along the main road to Freiburg, along the Höllental. We stopped briefly in the gorge at Hirschsprung to admire *Brotherella lorentziana* hanging from a rock face only a few metres from the very busy road. This day proved to be the wettest of the meeting, but thankfully the rain was light and patchy during the main part of the day. We began our visit to Tennenbach at Lange Au, in an old sandstone quarry known to harbour a good population of *Sematophyllum demissum*, a remarkable occurrence from a British perspective. *Leucobryum glaucum* occurred here with capsules. Continuing along the valley we visited further old quarries and woodland with sandstone outcrops (Fig. 21). Many of the species were familiar from the sandstone in Britain, the more notable being *Brachydontium trichodes*, *Campylostelium saxicola* and *Tetradontium brownianum*. It was interesting to see *Lioclachena lanceolata* on sandstone at one spot: some of its old British records were likewise from sandstone. Non-British species included *Dicranum fulvum* on the rocks, and *D. viride* on trees. *Dicranum montanum* was so luxuriant with capsules on one old log that its identity was not immediately obvious. We retraced our steps and headed up another valley to Soldatenfriedhof, the site of a mass grave for Bavarian soldiers who died from typhus in 1813/1814 - they had been housed in a hospital nearby on the site of an old monastery. On the way we were delighted to see fruiting *Ditrichum pallidum* on a roadside bank (Fig. 22),



△Fig. 20. *Thamnobryum neckeroides*. T.L. Blockeel. Fig. 21. Looking for *Tetradontium* at Tennenbach. M. Lüth

a moss that has recently been found in Sussex by Howard Matcham. It is distinctive because of its disproportionately long yellow setae. *Leucobryum juniperoideum* was present in the woods, and like *L. glaucum* earlier in the day it also had capsules. The small monument for the soldiers (Fig. 23) is the type locality for *Metzgeria simplex*, currently treated as a synonym of *M. conjugata*. The monument has been restored recently but some *Metzgeria* was still present. A *Riccia* on soil at the base of the monument attracted even more attention - it proved to be *R. warnstorffii*.

So ended an excellent meeting - a winning combination of good bryophytes, good weather,

good food and good company. There was much to interest everybody. We are very grateful to Michael for his efficient organisation, and not least for guiding us to some excellent Black Forest restaurants in the evenings.

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▽Fig. 22 right. *Ditrichum pallidum*. H. Siebel. Fig. 23 left. The memorial at Soldatenfriedhof, type locality for *Metzgeria simplex*. D.G. Long

