

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1989

The reasons for setting up a tropical bryology group in the BBS were probably first formally stated in Royce Longton's paper to the BBS Jubilee Meeting in 1983 (Longton, 1985a) where he wrote persuasively of the urgent need in the tropics to speed up the traditionally measured approach to bryological advance, particularly in taxonomy, and this was followed by a note in the *Bulletin* (Longton, 1985b). However, the first meeting of BBS Tropical Bryology Group (TBG) Working Party was not until May 1988 (Wigginton, 1988 (*Bulletin* **52**), after positive feedback from the BBS membership of the need for such a group. This progress report is to describe what has happened since.

All members of the working group have found it difficult to devote as much time as they would have liked to this project, but some progress has been made, and another meeting of the group has been arranged. Progress is as follows:

- The last report in the *Bulletin* said that the priority task for the group was the production of a guide to collecting bryophytes in the tropics, and this is now published as the BBS Special Volume no. 3.
- A list has also been produced of unworked collections at Edinburgh, but these proved to be very few.
- No real progress has been made in organising a trip to the tropics, although several useful ideas have been suggested, and a decision will be made on this at the next meeting of the Working Group.
- The TBG have agreed to help organise the 1990 Paper Reading Meeting, in celebration of Paul Richards and Eustace Jones, when part of the programme will have a tropical slant.
- A preliminary list has been produced of herbaria in the UK with tropical holdings, but needs extending, particularly to cover BBS members' tropical collections.
- A preliminary bibliography has been produced (based on that of the 'guide to collecting' booklet) but this now needs extending. It is hoped that this will lead to extra books being acquired by the BBS Library.
- The next meeting of the Working Party has been arranged for February 23rd, when the future direction of the group will be discussed - see next paragraph.

There are many possible future activities, including the following:

- Establish goals and objectives for the TBG.
- Continue existing activities, e.g. listing tropical collections in the UK, and organising a tropical trip.
- Produce guidelines for working with tropical collections.
- Review activities so far proposed, and look for new projects.
- Review how the TBG should be organised, encouraging active participation by BBS members, rather than just passive interest - particularly amongst those not already involved in tropical bryology.
- Investigate links with groups outside the UK,

The emphasis will be on finding a focus for the group, establishing a mechanism for reviewing its activities, and harnessing the energies of those members who are interested in participating. Progress and activities will be reported in the *Bulletin*.

References

Longton, R.E. (1985a). Future Developments in Bryology. In: *British Bryological Society Special Volume No. 1. "British Bryological Society Diamond Jubilee"*. Ed. R.E. Longton and A.R. Perry, Cardiff.

Longton, R.E. (1985b). Tropical Bryology Group. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society*. **45**, 21 (February 1985).

Wigginton, M. (1988). Tropical Group: 1st Meeting of the Working Party abbreviated minutes. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society*. **52**, 27-28 (July 1988).

O'Shea, B. 1990. Tropical Bryology Group - Progress. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **55**: 28-29.

Tropical bryophyte collections by BBS members

There are now a number of BBS members who have made collections in the tropics, or have received tropical specimens from others, and hold these in their personal herbaria. As part of a project for the BBS Tropical Bryology Group, I would like to receive information about these collections - in particular: countries where collections have been made, number of collections (divided into mosses, hepatics and anthocerotates if this is possible), progress in identification, who (if anyone) has given assistance in identification, books/papers used, problems found both in collection and identification, equipment and techniques found useful, and any other information that might be useful. Initially, it would be a good start if members would just let me know that they have bryophytes collected from the tropics, and details can be filled in later.

Brian O'Shea

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1990

The last year has seen the TBG quite active, but perhaps not yet involving a wide enough range of people. The major activities were as follows:

- A Tropical Bryology Workshop was organised for 21 September in Cambridge, the day before the BBS Paper-reading Meeting. Fewer people attended this than we had hoped (14 including the speakers), but the workshop proved very successful. The speakers were Tamás Pócs, Rob Gradstein and Paul Richards. Most of us managed to identify some of the unnamed material from Malawi supplied by David Long, and besides the speakers, other experts such as Eustace Jones and Cliff Townsend were able to confirm identifications. A short (3 page) account of the meeting has been produced, and at the request of workshop participants, Tamás Pócs has produced a "Quick Reference Guide of Basic Literature to Identify Tropical African Bryophytes".
- 15 members attended the AGM of the TBG held on 22 September, and a set of objectives was agreed. These are: 1) to promote the study of tropical bryophytes, 2) to involve as many members of the BBS as possible in this activity and 3) to support bryologists working in the tropics. In addition, four more specific aims were agreed, as was the description of how the group will operate. A committee was elected: Alan Harrington, David Long, Royce Longton, Brian O'Shea (coordinator) and Robin Stevenson. Any correspondence should be via the coordinator (address below).
- The TBG first trip is now being organised, to Mt Mulanje in Malawi, from 12 June to 3 July. Following a note in the *Bulletin*, five UK members are now committed to this trip, along with 3 from Africa, including the leader (Shaun Russell). Members of the expedition will be: Shaun Russell (leader), Royce Longton, Nick Hodgetts, Liz Kungu (Kenya), Z.L.K. Magombo (Malawi), Brian O'Shea, Ron Porley and Martin Wigginton. A first planning meeting has been held, and funding is now being actively sought following agreement to a proposal document which includes objectives, costs, etc. A preliminary list of Malawi mosses has now been produced by Brian O'Shea, and a hepatics list is being worked on.
- An area of importance that we identified early on - the processing of existing tropical collections - is still the one that has received least attention, but David Long has now produced 'Guidelines for processing old bryological collections', which should help get people started. We would welcome any offers of help in this area. We are still trying to produce a full list of which herbaria have unprocessed tropical material, but there is now enough information to get people started.

TBG is open to any BBS member who is interested, who should send me their name. Membership is currently 26. The documents produced by the TBG (including those mentioned above) are also available from me. The list is as follows:

No.	Document name	Issue	Pages	Date of issue
1	TBG - Discussion paper	1	10	14.04.1988
2	List of tropical countries	1	3	15.04.1988
3	TBG worldng party minutes (1) (13.05.88)	1	6	30.06.1988
4	UK herbaria with tropical bryophyte collections	2	2	15.02.1990
5	Bibliography of tropical bryology	1	5	30.12.1989
6	TBG working group minutes (2) (15.02.90)	1	6	19.02.1990
7	Guidelines for processing old tropical collections	2	2	26.03.1990
8	Objectives	1	1	01.10.1990

9	Membership list	1	1	01.10.1990
10	Annual General Meeting (1) (22.09.90)	1	1	01.10.1990
11	List of available documents	1	1	08.01.1991
12	Tropical Bryology Workshop (21.09.90)	1	3	18.11.1990
13	Provisional List of Malawi Mosses	1	11	14.09.1990
14	Literature for identifying tropical African bryos.	1	18	24.10.1990
15	Newsletter 1	1	2	08.01.1991

TBG members are kept in touch by a periodic newsletter, the first of which has now been circulated.

TBG Coordinator: *Brian O'Shea*

O'Shea, B. 1991. Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1990. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **57**: 26-27.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1991

BBS TBG Expedition to Mount Mulanje

The BBS Tropical Bryology Group Expedition to Mount Mulanje, Malawi, took place from 12th June to 4th July 1991. The specimens were oven-dried in Malawi prior to transit, and were all sent via air freight to London. Although one parcel has still not arrived, the UK-based members of the expedition have made a good start on working through the 4500 collections.

Each member of the expedition was allocated a collection number range, and so the specimens were first sorted at Reading University herbarium to allow them to be returned to the collectors for identification. (Initially, each collector is looking at their own collections, and identifying down to genus where possible. We expect later to allocate genera or families to individuals for coordination on behalf of the expedition.) The collection book details are also being computerised at Reading, and most are now entered and are either checked or ready for checking.

The specimens were distributed back to the collectors in mid-September, and so at the time of writing we have had about 4.5 months to look at them. So far about 500 packets have been examined. At the present rate of progress we have some years work ahead of us, but there are several reasons why progress has been slower than it might have been - for instance we have not all been able to spend as much time as we would like on the identification work, and in addition, all the initial identification work is being done in the UK because of the difficulty in getting hold of the necessary literature in Africa.

The initial results are quite encouraging. Although most identifications are only down to family or genus, we are all finding a reasonable proportion of our identifications are not previously recorded for Malawi, even at the family and genus level. We were particularly pleased to find 4 species of *Andreaea*, a family not previously known in Malawi. (As a relief from generic level identification, we have in some cases identified to species level.) Different people have adopted different strategies, some working through sequentially, some doing mosses first, or liverworts, and some doing particular families or other groups (e.g. epiphylls). The intention is to confirm all identifications with experts, which we will do before the new records are published.

Our collections when identified are pledged to various recipients, including the Malawi national herbarium at Zomba and the Missouri Botanical Garden, whose financial support for the expedition will be repaid by bryophyte specimens. The main problem will come with the small liverworts - some collections comprise only a few stems growing epiphyllously on a leaf, which will be difficult to split into several collections. Not all bryophytes grow in sufficient quantity to allow several specimens to be prepared from one collection!

We have had a number of problems:

1. **Lack of availability of literature.** Not only is it often lacking, where it is present, most of it is not in English, and although we can struggle through French and German with varying degrees of facility, the subtleties are easy to miss. However, we are improving with practice. It is difficult to find any literature at all for some taxa, and there is a serious lack of generic revisions. *Bryologia Africana* will be a tremendous boost to African bryology.
2. **Unfamiliarity with the plants.** We had very little experience within the expedition of tropical bryophytes, and this has meant that even common plants can take quite a time to identify. Some genera in particular cause problems - for instance the Sematophyllaceae, where the literature is sparse and generic differences difficult, and the Lejeuneaceae, where the literature is available, but many of the characters are difficult for the beginner.

3. **Lack of equipment.** The hepatics in particular need a reasonable quality dissection microscope, and some of us only have standard light microscopes.
4. **Lack of technique.** Many small hepatics have extremely critical characters which are difficult to detect.

We hope to meet again during February or March, to hold a workshop looking at common problems, and hopefully to get along also some expertise in African bryophytes. We will also discuss the publications we expect to produce (see below). Royce Longton is currently arranging this at Reading.

We expect to produce a number of publications relating to the Malawi collections. The first will be an introduction, covering the area visited, plant geography, geology, previous collectors, sites visited etc., the second will be a statement of the bryophytes known from Malawi before the expedition, and subsequent ones will cover particular plants or plant groups. We expect to cover the most clearly defined groups first, such as *Andreaea*, *Sphagnum* and *Campylopus*. We would like to see joint papers with taxonomic experts, so that we can cover both distribution and ecology on Mount Mulanje as well as any taxonomic issues. Conservation may also be covered in a separate paper: this is a key issue, and deforestation on Mount Mulanje is causing serious economic and physical problems, including over 200 deaths caused by landslides a few months before our trip.

O'Shea, B. 1992. BBS TBG Expedition to Mount Mulanje, Malawi. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **59**: 30.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1992

The main activities of the group continue to be related to the 1991 Malawi expedition, and good progress has been made in specimen identification and in preparing papers for publication. Both introductory papers (a general introduction and a checklist of Malawi bryophytes) are ready for publication, and the first taxonomic paper (probably on *Sphagnum*) is expected soon. Several of the more obvious groups, such as Polytrichaceae, Mniaceae, Thuidiaceae, Calymperaceae, *Campylopus*, *Andreaea* and *Leucoloma/Dicranoloma* are being extracted from collections and sent for refereeing. Already a large number of species new to Malawi have been identified, and several new to mainland Africa. (Of 16 *Campylopus* species so far identified, 9 are new to Malawi, 4 new to mainland Africa; one of the *Sphagnum* species is new to Africa; both Andreaeaceae (4 species) and Grimmiaceae are families new to Malawi. A large number of hepatics, mainly in the Lejeuneaceae, are new to Malawi.) A further workshop was held at Reading University during January 1993, organised by Royce Longton, where common problems and progress were discussed, attempts were made to standardise locality names on collections, and all the collections not so far examined (those of the African-based expedition members) were checked through and given preliminary identifications. At the workshop we were pleased to welcome Zac Magombo of the Cryptogamic Herbarium at Zomba, Malawi (who is currently working on an MSc in taxonomy at the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh), as well as two non-expedition members (Robin Stevenson and Peter Martin).

As a by-product of the Malawi work, several documents have been produced, including English translations of Frahm's key to African *Campylopus* and Petit's key to African pleurocarps. Other documents have been Martin Wigginton's extensive, annotated list of sub-Saharan liverworts, and a list of 'experts' for all the taxonomic groups known from Malawi, who have agreed to look at our collections. The latter has resulted in contacts being made with bryologists all over the world, and will, we hope, result in some of their expertise being transferred to BBS members. On the domestic front, 5 newsletters have now been published, as well as notes of the AGM. The list of literature for identifying tropical bryophytes has now been published in *Tropical Bryology*. A list of the mosses of Africa is now in preparation, based on literature records.

Following the death of Eustace Jones, the TBG has taken on the task of ensuring his 'work in progress' - a hepatic flora of West Africa - is made ready for publication. The manuscript is in typescript, which needs retyping into a word processor for final editing. Martin Wigginton is organising this (see appeal for typists elsewhere in the *Bulletin*), and David Long will act as the botanical editor. Ten 'typists' have taken on about 20 pages each, which covers almost half the flora.

Following the success of the Malawi expedition, a further trip is now being considered. Following a suggestion from one of our Dutch members (Dries Touw), Madagascar is being considered as a destination. Although the island is supposedly well-known, quite casual collections have resulted in new taxa to the island, so it is thought still relevant to visit the island whilst it still has a bryophyte flora to see. A joint Dutch/British trip is a possibility, and the TBG AGM agreed to pursue this for 1994.

Membership of the group is free: just write to Brian O'Shea at the address below.

O'Shea, B. 1993. BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1993. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **61**: 33-34.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1993

Generally this has been a quiet year, but we have five new members, and work has been continuing on a number of existing projects.

Malawi Expedition collections

The first two papers resulting from the expedition have now been published, and the majority of plants in several groups have now been identified: a total of 674 mosses have been sent for identification or confirmation, and a smaller number of hepatics. Of the mosses, 481 have been returned identified in 56 taxa, of which 34 are newly recorded for Malawi. An even larger proportion of the hepatics are new (about 40 in total), due largely to the detailed examination given to the epiphytes by Martin Wigginton.

A further weekend workshop was held in August, when attention was paid to the final draft of the papers for publication, and work was done on the remaining collections held at Reading (those of the non-UK-based members of the expedition) and particular interests and common problems were discussed.

There were about 4500 collections in total, but many of these will contain several taxa, so we may only have prepared about 10% for identification/confirmation so far. However, all of those working on the Malawi specimens are doing so in their spare time, so progress is sometimes a little erratic!

If there is anyone out there who would like to help, please get in touch: much assistance can be given even by those unfamiliar with tropical bryophytes.

Eustace Jones' West African Hepatic Flora

The text for Eustace Jones' flora is now all typed up (235 pages, now in Word for Windows format), and copies have been sent to various experts for comments. David Long and Martin Wigginton will pursue the scientific editing when comments are returned. It is hoped that the book will be illustrated (a large proportion have already been illustrated in Eustace's papers) and possibilities for publication are being discussed.

Documents

Several documents have been published during the year: 2 newsletters, notes of the 1993 AGM, and 3 translations of keys from French to English by Robin Stevenson - De Sloover's keys to *Breutelia* and *Leptodontium*, and Vanden Berghen's to *Frullania*.

Lists of tropical bryophytes

Martin Wigginton's hepatic list of sub-Saharan Africa has been very well received by expert reviewers, and Tamás Pócs has offered a collaboration to develop this further. My list of tropical African mosses has stalled a little, but the basic lists for mainland Africa are now being updated with later revisions. Madagascan records are yet to be added. The list currently numbers some 2500 taxa.

East African Biodiversity

We have contributed to the BBS reply to a questionnaire sent by a project sponsored by IUCN, World

Conservation Monitoring Centre and various national institutions in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, by providing information on the Malawi collections and also the lists we are producing of tropical bryophytes.

IAB Committee on Tropical Bryology

I have been invited to become a member of the IAB (International Association of Bryologists) Committee on Tropical Bryology. I hope this is an opportunity for the TBG to contribute to the IAB strategy and activities, and hopefully this will also reap benefits in reviewing our own direction.

O'Shea, B. 1994. Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1993. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **63**: 46-47.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1994

Newsletters

Two newsletters have been published during the year to members of the group, and there were three new members (now 43 in total).

Malawi Expedition collections

Good progress has been made again on processing and identification of the collections from the 1991 expedition. At the last count (September 1994), a total of 2360 specimens had been sent for identification, and 1360 had been returned, representing 212 taxa, of which 118 were new to Malawi (48 mosses and 70 liverworts). Subsequently, more have been sent and returned, revealing more taxa new to Malawi, including *Grimmia mammosa* new to Africa (previously known only in the Himalayas and the type locality in China).

Considering that we have about 4500 collections in total, representing perhaps 6-7000 taxa, we still have a long way to go. A weekend workshop at Reading University in July was devoted to sorting through the collections of those expedition members who are not in a position to identify their own material, and these were taken away by whoever appeared most likely to be responsible for the groups concerned. Unfortunately, quite a large number were just labelled 'pleurocarp', so more detailed sorting still remains to be done, and will obviously take some time.

If there is anyone out there who would like to help, please get in touch: much assistance can be given even by those unfamiliar with tropical bryophytes.

Several taxonomic publications are now in progress (four being beyond the 'first draft' stage).

Eustace Jones' West African Hepatic Flora

The position of Eustace Jones' flora was discussed at the TBG AGM in September, and although quite extensive editing was needed (e.g. missing taxa, recent taxonomy etc.) and a number of illustrations were missing, it was thought that this work could be accomplished in a year, for the book to be ready for publication in the Centenary year. Discussions with potential publishers are in hand, and it is expected that the BBS will be named as part publisher.

Lists of tropical bryophytes

Martin Wigginton's hepatic list of sub-Saharan Africa has now been reviewed and extended with the assistance of Tamás Pócs and his team, who are now extracting historic data. The list is now more or less complete, and Martin hopes it will be ready for publication fairly soon. Brian O'Shea's "Checklist of the mosses of sub-Saharan Africa" is about to be sent to the editors of *Tropical Bryology*. There are almost 3000 valid moss names on the list, with extensive recent synonymy; the distribution by country is shown for each taxon, with literature references.

Future expeditions

Two different options are now being pursued, both building on and extending the scope of the first Malawi expedition. It was seen that the most important aspect of a collecting expedition was local support, partly for logistics, but principally to ensure that bryological expertise was built and encouraged locally. One option was a series of three trips to Uganda, subject of a Darwin Initiative bid in December, and the other option is a similar three trip proposal for Malawi, to complete field work for a Malawi flora. This will be submitted for grant application in early 1995. It is thought that both proposals could be supported, but only if more BBS members become involved in this vital and fascinating work. Future activities will depend on the success of the grant applications.

Other news

Several TBG members will be attending the IAB Tropical Bryology conference in Mexico City in August 1995, and some will be giving papers.

Several members have also agreed to contribute to *Bryologia Africana*, a bryophyte flora of tropical Africa, which is about to be re-launched, with the hope of some early publications. It is over 10 years since Paul Richard's paper proposing this was published.

O'Shea, B. 1995. Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1994. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **65**: 44-45.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1995

Uganda expedition

The most important event of 1995 for the TBG was the success of our application for a grant from the government's Darwin Initiative, for three expeditions to Uganda. The first of these expeditions was arranged at short notice, and left for Uganda on 20th January 1996. Because of the short notice, the expedition members had to be decided on very quickly, and the six UK-based members are Nick Hodgetts, Martin Wigginton, Ron Porley, Robin Stevenson, Howard Matcham and Jeff Bates. The first three of these also went on the Malawi expedition, providing a degree of continuity and experience. There will be two Ugandans on the expedition, from Makerere University. The TBG is now the proud owner of two GPS (Global Positioning System), which give instant readings of grid reference and latitude/longitude, and which will no doubt prove invaluable in the forest. The first year's target is Bwindi (Impenetrable) Forest, a National Park in the SW of Uganda, near the borders of Rwanda and Zaire. It is a moist, evergreen, sub-montane and montane forest with what is described as an 'extremely rugged' topography, and is one of the main strongholds of the mountain gorilla. It is unusual to find an altitudinal range from 1100 to 2600 m still with forest cover, so one of the team's projects will be to look at altitudinal variation in bryophyte cover and diversity. The forest is known as a centre of endemism, although it is not thought to be part of the Pleistocene refugium centred on eastern Zaire; it is assumed that the plants migrated into Bwindi as the climate became less severe. There is no checklist of the plants of the Bwindi forest, so the expedition will provide valuable input to this, and to the continuing attempts to make this forest a model of conservation activity in tune with the local population.

The plan over the three years is to look at the forest belt in western Uganda, and the initial plan for future expeditions is to look at forest on the lower slopes of the Ruwenzori mountains, and also the Mgahinga Gorilla National Park. Preliminary investigations of existing Ugandan collections suggest that the latter area may already be well-worked, and so the final decision on next year's expedition will not take place until after this information is reviewed. It is hoped that the expedition team members will be able to identify many more specimens themselves than was possible with the Malawi expedition, due to increased expertise and literature availability, and thus the specimens should be processed more quickly, so the input of one expedition can feed into the next. In parallel with this it is hoped to work on some of the unidentified Uganda material in the BM. It is one of the TBG's objectives to exploit the wealth of existing collections, as well as to collect ourselves.

Malawi Expedition collections

The current estimate is that 3274 specimens have now been looked at by experts, or are now available for examination (and this is probably an under-estimate), but less than half this number have so far been confirmed to species. 131 species have been identified as new to the Malawi checklist, a 43% increase to the existing list! The first three papers containing taxonomic results will appear in the next Journal of Bryology, and several more are underway. The main delay is caused by the need for major revisions in many genera and families. Several hundred specimens are also held awaiting further investigation because of our inability to key them to family; many are just labelled 'pleurocarp' for instance. If there is anyone out there who would like to help, please get in touch: much assistance can be given even by those unfamiliar with tropical bryophytes.

Eustace Jones' West African Hepatic Flora

The text of Eustace Jones' flora has now been fully revised, but a number of illustrations need adding or re-drawing. Martin Wigginton is seeking helpers for this task. Although the book should be completed during the year, it will be a rush to get it out before the end of the Centenary year.

Lists of tropical African bryophytes

Checklists have now been produced covering all the bryophytes of sub-Saharan Africa, including Atlantic and Indian Ocean islands. This makes the task of identification that much simpler, and provides a base for future taxonomic work. Brian O'Shea's "Checklist of the mosses of sub-Saharan Africa" appeared in *Tropical Bryology* **10**:91-198, and for hepatics and anthocerotes, Martin Wigginton's checklist (excluding East African islands) is now being reviewed for publication, and Riclef Grolle's checklist of the East African islands was published in as *Bryophytorum Bibliotheca* **48**:1-178.

Other news

Nine TBG members (three from England) attended the IAB Tropical Bryology conference in Mexico City in August 1995, and all gave papers. The proceedings will be published in *Anales del Instituto de Biología - Serie Botánica*.

Only one newsletter was published during the year to members of the group, mainly due to pressures on time. There were four new members, and one death (Paul Richards) (giving a total membership of 46).

O'Shea, B. 1996. BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1995. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **67**: 35-37.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1996

Future direction of TBG

This note will be published 12 years after Royce Longton's request in *BBS Bulletin* **45** (February, 1985) for people interested in forming a Tropical Bryology Group to contact him. It was not until September 1986 that an informal meeting of interested members met at the BBS AGM in Leeds, and of the 16 people who attended, three are now deceased, two are not actively involved, but the other eleven are still involved in various ways. A discussion paper was produced of possible ways in which we could contribute, and many of the suggestions in that paper have now been implemented. We were not to know how much this would change the direction of our activities, but it has certainly done that, both by giving a new impetus to our interest, and by that interest being directed more to the tropics than the UK. Nevertheless, a decade on, we are still working within that same framework and it seems time to re-examine our direction and activities. As a result of a suggestion at the TBG AGM in September 1996, we intend during this year to look again at our aims, objectives, activities and priorities.

Uganda expeditions

The first of the TBG trips to Uganda took place from January 19th to February 11th 1996, and six TBG members (Nick Hodgetts, Martin Wigginton, Ron Porley, Robin Stevenson, Howard Matcham and Jeff Bates) and two members of staff from Makerere University, Kampala (Stephen Byarujali and Berna Nakityo) visited Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park. There were two objectives: a bryophyte inventory and an ecological project. The inventory was made by recording and making collections in different parts of the forest, mainly during daily forays from the bases at Ruhija and Buhoma, but two members collected in more remote locations from a tented camp set up in the central part of the forest. Bryophytes were recorded and collected from as wide a range of habitats and communities as possible, including marginal habitats such as tracks and roadside banks bordering the National Park. As there was no means of access to the canopy, collections were taken from any newly-fallen branches and twigs that were encountered. There were two ecological projects, a main (joint) project to investigate variations in bryophyte diversity and species ranges in relation to altitude within the forest (which involved making bryophyte lists for 5 delimited 30 x 30 metre square plots spaced along an altitudinal gradient) and a bryophyte communities project, to delimit the main recognisable epiphyte communities and relate their occurrence to major environmental factors such as altitude height on tree, slope of bark, type of substratum (which involved examination of 5 trees in each of the plots used for the main project). Everyone is identifying their own collections, and good progress is being made in this, but it will certainly not be completed within a year.

The 1997 trip (which will have taken place by the time you read this) has a busy schedule and involves a brief survey of a variety of montane forests in the SW corner of Uganda, and it is currently planned that the final expedition will concentrate on the montane forest on the Rwenzoris: this is a neglected area as most bryological activity has concentrated on the unusual and distinctive area above the tree line, but looks very promising in terms of the overall project.

Malawi expedition collections

In the meantime, the Malawi specimens have now largely been processed, although there are still a few hundred of the 4500 packets still awaiting identification to family level. A number of papers covering the results have already been published or accepted for publication, and more are in draft. Most cover not just the Mulanje specimens but also the taxa that might be found in a wider area (often all of tropical Africa) so should prove useful for Ugandan specimens also. Unfortunately fully up to date figures are not available, but so far the

records show that we have 4593 specimens identified at least to family level, with 2169 identified to species level. We have added 156 new taxa to the Malawi list (raising it from 303 to 459). The number of specimens identified to family level is probably several hundred more than this, but it was not possible to get the information together in time for this note, and the final figure for specimens is likely to be around 6000 or more. Many families with large numbers of collections may not be identified for some time as they are with people expecting to do full taxonomic revisions.

Other news

Two TBG Newsletter were published in 1996 (numbers 10 and 11), but all 44 TBG documents are now available on the BBS World Wide Web (WWW) home page on the Internet. The TBG WWW pages also include some information that has not been published as documents, for instance the latest position on Malawi collection data, forthcoming papers, and a list of all 6000+ literature references quoted in *Tropical Bryology*. Four new members joined during the year, giving a membership of 50 (membership is free and is open to all BBS members).

It has now been agreed by Council that it will be necessary to pay an artist to produce illustrations for Eustace Jones' West African hepatic flora, but no date has been fixed yet for completion. With the publication in 1996 of Martin Wigginton's checklist of sub-Saharan hepatics (*Bryophytorum Bibliotheca* **50**), we now have checklists of both mosses and hepatics from all of sub-Saharan Africa and the African islands.

O'Shea, B. 1997. BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1996. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **69**: 48-49.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1997

Expeditions

Uganda. The second year of our Darwin-funded activities in Uganda saw a survey of the forests of eastern Uganda, already reported on in the last Bulletin, and by the time this is printed, the third year of our Uganda activities will have started, with a training course in Makerere University's Biological Field Station in Kibale National Park entitled 'introduction to bryology and tropical cryptogam ecology', which is being given by Jeff Bates, Roy Perry and Michael Proctor. Following this, during the summer, a team of four (Nick Hodgetts, Ron Porley, Jeff Duckett and Catherine Lafarge-England) will spend 3 weeks surveying the bryophytes of the mountainous Rwenzori National Park. This will complete all the Uganda-based activities of the Darwin-funded project, and it will remain to translate all this activity into published results. Many new records for Uganda (and indeed one new to Africa) have already been identified, and the first publications should be ready soon.

Malawi. Nine publications have now appeared, and another eight are underway. The current tally is 4811 specimens, of which 4258 are with experts for identification, and 2317 have so far been identified, yielding 290 different taxa, of which 156 (54%) are new to Malawi. Many families are delayed awaiting taxonomic revision, which is a problem with all tropical African collections. Identified specimens are being distributed by Royce Longton from Reading University Herbarium.

Future. Consideration is being given to future expeditions of the TBG now the Uganda project is in its last year. Several suggestions have been made, but there is no clear favourite. Any suggestions to me please.

Publications

TBG Newsletter. Only one Newsletter has been published during the year, and distributed to 54 members. We are trying to reduce the number posted, and the next issue will be emailed to all those that can receive it, which will reduce the number posted significantly. (Membership of the TBG is free and open to all BBS members.)

E.W. Jones' flora of west African hepatics. This is progressing well, and we are hoping the drawings will be complete by Spring; good progress is also being made on the text.

Internet. New documents continue to be added to the TBG part of the BBS home page on the internet. Twelve documents have been added in the last year. There is now an interlinked set of keys covering tropical African pleurocarps, with a key to families, linked to keys to genera and keys to species. At present the individual keys to genera and species are few and far between, but new keys are added as they become available, as are translations of older ones.

Non-TBG activities

Guide to bryophytes of sub-Saharan Africa. Several TBG members will be participating in a project starting in April 1998 to produce an illustrated guide to the families and genera of African bryophytes.

Lesotho. Other TBG members have been participating in Jeff Duckett's work on the bryoflora of Lesotho and the neighbouring Drakensbergs, and a major paper on the work so far will include both a species new to science as well as several new to Africa.

IBC99

The International Botanical Congress in 1999 (in St Louis, Missouri) will again feature bryological seminars, and the TBG will be involved in the African part of a symposium on moss diversity.

O'Shea, B. 1998. BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1997. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **71**: 30-31.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 1998-1999

O'Shea BJ. 2000. BBS Tropical Bryology Group: Progress in 1998-1999. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **74**: 59-62.

Unfortunately no report was prepared for last year's *Bulletins*, so two years are covered here. Last year's silence was not the result of having nothing to report - rather the reverse: there is now an increasingly large amount of work to do, and indeed being done.

Uganda

The third-year expedition of our Darwin-funded activities in Uganda in summer 1998 was transferred at the last minute to Mt Elgon (see [pp. 53-59 of Bulletin 74](#)): the Ugandan army was fighting rebel troops in the Rwenzoris, our original destination. Although Mt Elgon is already quite well known, the four participants (Ron Porley, Jeff Duckett, Howard Matcham and Catherine LaFarge) made many new records for Uganda. The results so far have already been incorporated in the first three papers in the series 'Bryophytes of Uganda' (published last year in *Tropical Bryology* **16**), which reported more than a hundred bryophytes new to Uganda.

Jeff Bates has suggested that the results be published via a book, *Mosses and Liverworts of Uganda*. New York Botanical Garden have expressed an interest in publishing the book. We are hoping that all collections will be identified at least to family by the end of 2000, to be followed by a two-year period of work by a number of authors to produce the book. It will cover approximately 800 taxa, and authors for all groups have now been appointed. The project will also include the identification of other Ugandan collections (including more than 1200 made by Francis Rose in 1961). Our experience in Malawi has shown that intensive collection can provide a new perspective on the taxonomy of many tropical genera, where there are often many species based on very few collections. Large collections from a comparatively small area can give an indication of variation that has so far been missing, and the resulting taxonomic work may be quite heavy.

Malawi

Publications continue to trickle out via *Journal of Bryology*, but much of the outstanding work either depends on taxonomic work in large and difficult groups, or depends on experts who are already overloaded with other work. However, another paper has been accepted for publication (our 12th) and others are actively being worked on.

Future Expeditions

No arrangements have been made for future trips at present, but three possibilities are being pursued: Kenya, Cameroon and a return trip to Malawi.

TBG Newsletter

Newsletters were published in August 1998 and August 1999 and distributed to 58 members. Publication is now largely via e-mail and the newsletters are all held on the BBS web site. (Membership of the TBG is free and open to all BBS members.)

E.W. Jones' Flora of West African Hepatics

After good progress in producing drawings and revising the text, work ground to a halt when money to complete the illustrations could not be found, including from the BBS. As a result, little work has been done during the past year. Some publication possibilities are still being pursued, but the material may merely be put

on the BBS web site in its present state, probably with the addition of some previously published drawings. This is a disappointing end to the work of a world pioneer in African hepaticology, and active BBS member for many years.

Internet

The BBS web page is now up-to-date with all TBG publications and progress reports, and also has a little more information about both the Malawi and Uganda collections. It is planned to make the African moss checklist available on the web as a searchable database. I maintain a constantly updated database covering the distribution of African bryophytes to support the production of a periodically published checklist (the last was produced in November 1999 - see below). These data will now be used to create and update a database at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (where the BBS web site is housed), allowing the data to be queried. Although the interface has yet to be designed, it is hoped that it will be possible, for instance, to enter a species name to view its distribution, or a country name to see a checklist. If successful, we would hope to extend this to cover hepatics.

Lesotho

Although not part of the official TBG activities, several TBG members have been participating in Jeff Duckett's work on the bryoflora of Lesotho and the neighbouring Drakensbergs, and a major paper on the work so far was published in *Journal of Bryology* last year.

Guide to Bryophytes of Sub-Saharan Africa

More than 20 authors, all but one members of the BBS, are participating in a project to produce an illustrated guide to the families and genera of African bryophytes. At the last count, there were 125 families and 498 genera, and around 20% of the accounts are now written. The first draft of all the text should be completed by the summer, and after a period to integrate the individual family accounts and check that the keys work, it is hoped to run three workshops in Africa to check that the guide works in the field, though this will depend on securing funding. The final book will be published by Missouri Botanical Garden in late 2001. We see this as a framework within which future taxonomic work in Africa can be pursued. The project is being managed by Tropical Bryology Research, a company created specifically for the project by myself and Martin Wigginton, and which has its own web site (www.oshea.demon.co.uk/tbr.htm). It has also produced its first publication (see below).

New African Moss Checklist

The original African moss checklist was produced in 1995. Although an update was produced in 1997, this was published only on the BBS web site, which prevented it being referred to as a publication in papers. Like the previous versions, the 1999 version is available as a free downloadable file from the Tropical Bryology Research home page (see previous item), but it has also been published as a paper version: *Tropical Bryology Research Reports* **1**. This new serial was seen as a useful way of publishing documents that other journals may not be prepared to publish (the checklist is 135 pages!), but to which authors wish to create free access.

International Botanical Congress, 1999

The International Botanical Congress in 1999 (in St Louis, Missouri) featured seven symposia concerned wholly or in part with bryophytes, and fourteen TBG members were present. Most of the bryological proceedings are to be published in various journals (e.g. *The Bryologist*), or, in the case of the Moss Diversity symposium, as a book.

Alan Eddy

Alan Eddy, who died last year, was perhaps the BBS's premier tropical specialist, and had devoted most of his time during the last 15 years to his *Handbook of Malesian Mosses*, of which three volumes have been published.

This is the only full flora of SE Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and New Guinea). Volume 4 was not far from completion when he died, but the 5th volume, covering Hookeriales and Hypnales was scarcely beyond the planning stage. Fortunately, Angie Newton at the Natural History Museum hopes to be able to recover most of the text and illustrations and start during this year to complete the missing parts of volume 4. The final volume will become two volumes, and will probably be edited by Ben Tan, of Singapore, the expert particularly familiar with these groups.

Brian J. O'Shea, 141 Fawnbrake Avenue, London SE24 0BG (e-mail: brian@oshea.demon.co.uk).

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 2000

O'Shea BJ. 2001. BBS Tropical Bryology Group: Progress in 2000. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **76**: 61-62.

Membership and Newsletter

There is no need to have been to the tropics to become a member of the Tropical Bryology Group (TBG): membership is open to all members of the BBS. All you need is to want to extend your knowledge into this area - just let me know, and I will add you to the circulation list for the Newsletter, which is produced once a year, usually in August. Participation in TBG activities also doesn't necessarily mean participating in collecting expeditions, and there are several UK-based TBG members who are participating in both the Malawi and Uganda work without having ever been to the tropics.

Malawi bryophyte list increased by 130 taxa

As we slowly work through critical groups of Malawi bryophytes in our papers in *Journal of Bryology*, we have also been looking at less critical taxa, and we have now gathered all of these together into a paper (number 13 in the series) that has been accepted for publication in *Tropical Bryology* (O'Shea *et al.*, in press). As a result, the original checklist total (O'Shea, 1993) has increased from 303 to 433. Details are as follows:

	Mosses	Liverworts	Total
Checklist (1993)	197	106	303
Additions	65	65	130
Total	262	171	433

More work is still required, and we hope to publish more papers during 2001, but some groups are unlikely to be dealt with adequately without major revisions, which await the attentions of others. Whilst we are approaching the end of what we can achieve with the Malawi collections, we have built a tremendous amount of expertise that is now being transferred to many other projects.

Uganda - 133 taxa new to the checklist

The Uganda publications continue, and the fourth is now in press (Wigginton *et al.*, in press). Considering that most collections have not yet been looked at, the results are very positive, and we have already added 62 mosses and 71 hepatics to the Uganda list. The major taxonomic work on the collections will take place for the *Mosses and Liverworts of Uganda* book (ed. Jeff Bates), which is scheduled to be completed towards the end of 2002.

E.W. Jones Flora of West African hepatics

The saga of this Flora continues. The text is well advanced, but there has been practically no progress for a year. New drawings of 20 species were prepared by an artist from the National Botanic Garden at Meise, Belgium, and most of the remaining 210 species have been illustrated by E.W. Jones, C. Vanden Berghen and others, but these do not match the quality and style of the new plates, and means have not been found to prepare new plates of these species.

Offers of publication have been received, and getting the book published isn't the problem - rather the insistence that the extra plates be produced. The issue is not just finding an artist/artists, but also the amount of support that this task requires, providing specimens, and giving advice on which characters need illustrating. One option is to publish it as it is on the BBS web-site, pending its publication as a book, but other options are still being pursued.

Internet

The TBG section of the BBS website is regularly updated, but no progress has been made on setting up an African moss database on-line, mainly through lack of time.

Guide to bryophytes of sub-Saharan Africa (GBA)

This multi-authored project to produce an illustrated guide to the families and genera of African bryophytes is making good progress, with all but one participant a BBS member. At the end of 2000, the liverworts are almost complete, the mosses some way behind, and the introductory chapters not yet started. Progress is posted on the Tropical Bryology Research/GBA website (<http://www.oshea.demon.co.uk/tbr.htm>). We had hoped to try out the Guide in workshops in Africa, but funding wasn't forthcoming. However, we still hope to be able to provide free copies to a number of African institutions following publication. We expect to deliver the final document to the publisher (Missouri Botanic Garden) during 2001.

Alan Crundwell

Alan Crundwell's death will be a great loss to the BBS as a whole, but for the TBG he was one of the very few people left in the UK who had collected and studied tropical taxa, and he was a great support to us. He was part way through looking at Malawi Bryaceae, Dicranaceae and Ditrichaceae when he died, and his identifications will appear during 2001 in the next Malawi paper.

References

O'Shea BJ. 1993. British Bryological Society expedition to Mulanje Mountain, Malawi. 2. Checklist of Malawi bryophytes. *Journal of Bryology* **17**: 645-670.

O'Shea BJ, Wigginton MJ, Bruggeman-Nannenga MA, Hodgetts NG, Porley RD. In press. British Bryological Society expedition to Mulanje Mountain, Malawi. 13. New and other unpublished records. *Tropical Bryology* **20**.

Wigginton MJ, O'Shea BJ, Porley RD, Matcham HW. In press. Bryophytes of Uganda. 4. New and additional records for Uganda. 2. *Tropical Bryology* **20**.

Brian J. O'Shea, 141 Fawnbrake Avenue, London, SE24 0BG; e-mail: brian@oshea.demon.co.uk.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 2001

O'Shea BJ. 2002. BBS Tropical Bryology Group: Progress in 2001. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **78**: 54-56.

Tenth anniversary of first TBG tropical expedition

2001 saw the tenth anniversary of the first Tropical Bryology Group (TBG) expedition to Malawi, and we were able to see three more papers published on our Malawi collections, including our sweep-up of outstanding identifications (O'Shea *et al.*, 2001), as well as a treatment of miscellaneous hepatic families (Wigginton & Porley, 2001), and an account of the Lejeuneaceae (Wigginton, 2001). There are still quite a number of unidentified collections, but most await taxonomic revisions before identification can be made.

New TBG co-ordinator

The TBG AGM in September saw the appointment of a new co-ordinator of the Group: Michelle Price. Michelle started as the new curator of bryophytes and pteridophytes at the Conservatoire et Jardin Botanique in Geneva in October 2001, and is also completing her PhD thesis from Missouri Botanical Garden & University of Missouri-St Louis, USA. Her thesis work incorporates revisionary and phylogenetic studies of the tropical genera *Holomitrium*, *Eucamptodontopsis* and *Schliephackea* (Dicranaceae). Formerly an MSc student of Tony (AJE) Smith (topic: ecology of bryophytes in *Polylepis* woodlands, Ecuador), Michelle has been interested in tropical bryophytes for six years and has had field experience in Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Suriname and Puerto Rico. She can be contacted on Michelle.Price@cjb.ville-ge.ch. As most of the business of the TBG takes place via e-mail, a co-ordinator living abroad is not seen as too much of a problem, and we look forward to seeing her on home visits. A first priority will be a review of what we have achieved so far, and what we should be doing next.

Uganda - progress towards a bryophyte flora

The fourth and fifth Uganda publications have appeared (Wigginton *et al.*, 2001; O'Shea & Buck, 2001) and major progress has been made in identifying collections to family level so that they can be distributed to family co-ordinators. The identification of collections to species level is the job of the 33 authors recruited by Jeff Bates for the *Mosses and Liverworts of Uganda* book; they will be supplied with material by the family co-ordinators. Much of the part-identified material still remains to be distributed, but this year should see good progress, and the book is scheduled to be completed towards the end of 2003.

E.W. Jones Flora of West African hepatics

There has been good progress in the latter part of the year, following the TBG AGM in September. Roy Perry kindly agreed to take on the general administration of the project after both David Long and Martin Wigginton felt they would not be able to devote sufficient time to it in the foreseeable future. The National Botanic Garden at Meise again offered to publish the Flora, and this has been accepted in principle. The prospective publishers have agreed that all species should be illustrated, and that it would be acceptable to use existing published drawings. Omer Kerkhove, the artist at Meise, will be preparing new plates for about fourteen species. Martin Wigginton has continued to work on the text, which is now nearly complete. Nick Hodgetts and David Long are revising some genera. It is hoped that the manuscript with the drawings all completed will be ready to send to the press during 2002.

Guide to bryophytes of sub-Saharan Africa

Very little progress was made in 2001 on this project to produce an illustrated guide to the families and genera of African bryophytes, mainly due to other distractions, in particular the deadline on identifying Uganda collections. However, we are about half way through and hope to make better progress during 2002. A guide to the bryophytes of tropical America was published during the year (Gradstein *et al.*, 2001), and we would be

extremely pleased if we could produce something as good.

Membership and Newsletter

There is no need to have been to the tropics to become a member of the TBG: membership is open to all members of the BBS. All you need is to want to extend your knowledge into this area - just let the co-ordinator know, and you will be added to the circulation list for the Newsletter, which is produced once a year, usually in August. Participation in TBG activities also doesn't necessarily mean participating in collecting expeditions, and there are several UK-based TBG members who are participating in both the Malawi and Uganda work despite having never been to the tropics. There is an extensive area on the BBS web site covering our activities - select 'Tropical Bryology Group' from the home page.

References

Gradstein SR, Churchill SP, Salazar Allen N. 2001. Guide to the bryophytes of tropical America. *Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden* **86**: i-viii, 1-577.

O'Shea BJ, Buck WR. 2001. Bryophytes of Uganda. 5. *Bryocrumia* L.E. Anderson (Hypnaceae, Musci), a monotypic genus new to Africa. *Tropical Bryology* **20**: 103-107.

O'Shea BJ, Wigginton MJ, Bruggeman-Nannenga MA, Hodgetts NG, Porley RD. 2001. British Bryological Society Expedition to Mulanje Mountain, Malawi. 13. New and other unpublished records. *Tropical Bryology* **20**: 1-26.

Wigginton MJ. 2001. British Bryological Society Expedition to Mulanje Mountain, Malawi. 15. Lejeuneaceae, and the occurrence and frequency of foliicolous taxa. *Tropical Bryology* **20**: 83-95.

Wigginton MJ, O'Shea BJ, Porley RD, Matcham HW. 2001. Bryophytes of Uganda. 4. New and additional records, 2. *Tropical Bryology* **20**: 55-62.

Wigginton MJ, Porley RD. 2001. British Bryological Society Expedition to Mulanje Mountain, Malawi. 14. Allisoniaceae, Arnelliaceae, Aytoniaceae, Geocalycaceae, Gymnomitriaceae, Pallaviciniaceae (Hepaticae). *Journal of Bryology* **23**: 133-138.

Brian J. O'Shea, 141 Fawnbrake Avenue, London SE24 0BG; e-mail: brian@oshea.demon.co.uk.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 2002

Price MP & O'Shea BJ. 2003. BBS Tropical Bryology Group: Progress in 2002. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **80**: 50-52.

Newsletter and membership

The 17th newsletter of the Tropical Bryology Group (TBG) was produced in August 2002, and is available on the BBS web site at <http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/bbs/tbg.htm#tbgnews>. It was a collaborative effort between Brian O'Shea and Michelle Price detailing the activities of members, ideas for future expeditions, and the progress made on the various projects undertaken by the TBG. This year saw the addition of two new members to the TBG: Min S. Chuah-Petiot (Department of Botany, University of Nairobi, Kenya) and Neil Bell (Natural History Museum, London). Members of the BBS with an interest, or potential interest, in tropical bryophytes are encouraged to join the TBG (contact: Michelle.Price@cjb.ville-ge.ch).

Mosses and Liverworts of Uganda

This book, edited by Jeff Bates with assistance from Nick Hodgetts (hepatics) and Brian O'Shea (mosses), is now well underway and the taxonomic contributions are due to be completed by April 2003. Due to delays in getting specimens to authors, this may now be a tight timetable, but progress reports from authors have been positive. Details of the project can be found on the TBG section of the BBS web site (<http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/bbs/ugabook.htm>), and progress information will be updated as completed contributions are received.

E.W. Jones' Flora of West African hepatics

After the hard work of Martin Wigginton in revising and updating this work of Eustace Jones, good progress has been made on finalising the publication of the book. It is already around 500 pages before the addition of the introductory chapters. The book will be published by the National Botanical Garden, Meise, Belgium. The illustrations, being prepared by Omer Van der Kerkhove, an artist from the Botanical Gardens at Meise, are superb and make a good complement to the text. The completed work will be a great tribute to E.W. Jones and his contributions to the knowledge of the hepatics of Africa.

Guide to bryophytes of sub-Saharan Africa

Slow but steady progress has been made this year on the treatment of the moss and hepatic genera by the various contributing authors for this publication. A target of mid-2003 has been set to complete the rest of the genera. More details about the flora can be found on the Tropical Bryology Research web site (<http://oshea.demon.co.uk/tbr/gba.htm>), which shows the progress made on each family. The illustrations of the taxa are still lagging behind the progress made on the taxonomic work. Each genus is illustrated by simple drawings of key characters, so if anyone with some drawing skills is able to assist with this, we would like to hear from them (contact Brian O'Shea: brian@oshea.demon.co.uk).

Future Malawi expedition

Discussion at the TBG annual meeting this year focused on the development of a future research effort in Malawi with the collaboration of resident bryologist Zacharia Magombo. Zacharia is a member of the TBG and has recently completed his PhD at Missouri Botanical Garden. He is based at the National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens of Malawi, Zomba, and was a participant in our 1991 expedition. He is keen to develop bryological work in Malawi, and particularly welcomes international assistance, especially initially in field collecting efforts. The TBG's successful trip to Mt Mulanje in Malawi in 1991 (see the TBG web site for a report on this trip by Royce Longton) allowed TBG members to make a contribution towards the knowledge of the Malawi bryophyte flora by publishing, to date, thirteen papers. These papers are listed on the TBG website and further publications are still in preparation. The first expedition will form a good foundation for the development

of a project proposal for future work in Malawi.

Publications of members in 2002: TBG projects

Wigginton MJ. 2002. Checklist and distribution of the liverworts and hornworts of sub-Saharan Africa, including the East African Islands (version 1, 2/02). *Tropical Bryology Research Reports* **3**: 1-88.

TBG web site

In 2003 the TBG web site will be hosted by the Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques, Geneva, so that it can be maintained by Michelle Price. Details of the new site will be announced in the TBG newsletter of 2003, but the link from and to the BBS TBG web site should remain as seamless as it is at present.

New co-ordinator and review of the objectives of TBG

Michelle Price has now taken over as co-ordinator of TBG. She chaired the annual meeting of the TBG in Edinburgh, and she plans to begin her term as co-ordinator with a review of the TBG's objectives, with the help of the previous co-ordinator Brian O'Shea. The results of the review will be drawn up and circulated amongst TBG members for discussion at the annual meeting of the TBG in September 2003.

Michelle Price, Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques, Case Postale 60, CH-1292 Chambèsy-GE, Switzerland; e-mail: Michelle.Price@cjb.ville-ge.ch.

Brian O'Shea, 141 Fawnbrake Avenue, London SE24 0BG; e-mail: brian@oshea.demon.co.uk.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - Progress in 2003

Price MP. 2003. BBS Tropical Bryology Group: Progress in 2003. *Field Bryology* **84**: 26.

During 2003, a document was compiled reporting on the first fifteen years of the Tropical Bryology Group (TBG). This was published in *Field Bryology* **83**: 23-30, and is also available on the BBS TBG website at http://www.nhm.ac.uk/hosted_sites/bbstbg/tbg66.pdf. The TBG website is also accessible via the BBS website from the *Activities* or *Bryology Portal* buttons. The document summarises the activities of the TBG up to 2002, as well as providing a listing of all publications produced by TBG members through the various TBG research focus areas or projects (especially Malawi and Uganda). A great deal of progress, mostly effected under the guidance of the longstanding TBG coordinator Brian O'Shea, has been made by TBG members under the various objectives outlined in the original TBG discussion paper (document 1 on the TBG website).

The 18th TBG newsletter was produced in August 2003 and is available on the TBG web site. It covered the mosses and liverworts of Uganda (MALOU) and Malawi projects, ideas for future expeditions, information on the Eustace Jones Flora of West African hepatics, a report of the 5th Tropical African training course, news from the bryology research group in Göttingen and information from TBG members.

There were three new TBG members in 2003:

- * Dr. Christine Cargill, Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, Australian National Herbarium, Canberra, Australia
- * Prof. Dr. Eberhard Fischer, Institut für Biologie, Universität Koblenz-Landau, Koblenz Germany
- * Aino Juslén, Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands

During 2003, advances were made on several projects involving TBG members (Mosses and Liverworts of Uganda, E.W. Jones' Flora of West African hepatics and Guide to Bryophytes of Africa), as described in the 18th TBG newsletter. This is especially true of the E.W. Jones' Flora of West African hepatics book which was nearing completion by the end of 2003. We now come to a point where we can build upon the success of the first fifteen years of TBG activities with a continued effort to focus on bryophyte research in Africa, as well as develop new research objectives and directions.

Contributions to the TBG are very welcome and members of the BBS with an interest, or potential interest, in tropical bryophytes are encouraged to contact the current TBG coordinator, Michelle Price.

Michelle Price, Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques, Case Postale 60, CH-1292 Chambèsy-GE, Switzerland; e-mail: Michelle.Price@cjb.ville-ge.ch.

BBS Tropical Bryology Group - a belated progress report for 2004 and 2005

Price MP. 2007. BBS Tropical Bryology Group: Progress in 2002. *Field Bryology* **92**: 19-20.

Somewhat belatedly I can say that 2004 and 2005 were quiet years for the Tropical Bryology Group (TBG) as many of its members concentrated on their various non tropical bryological or non-bryological projects, and as the group began to develop its direction and objective for the coming years.

Newsletter and TBG membership 2004

The 19th newsletter of the TBG was produced in August 2004 and is available on the TBG section of the BBS website (under Bryology Portal - Tropical Bryology Group). This newsletter contains a tribute to the late hepaticologist Riclef Grolle, a report of the IAB meeting in Merida, Venezuela, information on the publication and availability of the Eustace Jones West African Hepatic Flora, information on new members, research activities of existing members, and research news from the bryology research group at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and at the Esterhazy College, Hungary. This year saw the addition of five new members to the TBG, bringing current membership up to sixty-nine in number.

During 2004, some TBG members has chance to meet other bryologists and familiarize themselves with the South American bryophyte flora, at the International Association of Bryologists (IAB) congress in Merida, Venezuela. This extremely convivial meeting offered all a chance to find out about current research activities on bryophytes and interact with the active bryology group based in Merida.

Newsletter and TBG membership 2005

The 20th newsletter of the TBG was produced in September 2005, and is also available on the TBG section of the BBS website. This newsletter contains a report of the International Botanical Congress in Vienna (17-25 July 2005), information on the Hedwig-Schaeegrichen types catalogue and bryophyte research news from the bryology group at The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, as well as information on new members and on the research activities of the existing members. One new member to the TBG was announced for 2005 with the total number of TBG members resting at sixty-nine members.

During 2005 the Guide to Bryophytes of sub-Saharan Africa (GBA) project was made more accessible through the launch of its website (<http://www.gbaonline.org.uk/>). The Mosses and Liverworts of Uganda project (MALOU) began publishing its taxonomic treatments in Volume 26 of *Journal of Bryology* thus facilitating the publication of all works related to the project. A project of interest to Africa bryophytes, and carried out by TBG members, was launched at the BM in the autumn of 2005. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation *African Plants Initiative* project funds the databasing and imaging of types of African origin in collections all over the world. More information on the project at the BM can be found in the TBG newsletter no. 21.

Members of the BBS with an interest, or potential interest, in tropical bryophytes are encouraged to join the TBG (contact the new TBG coordinator: Joanna Wilbraham at j.wilbraham@nhm.ac.uk).

Michelle Price, Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques, Case Postale 60, CH-1292 Chambèsy-GE, Switzerland; e-mail: Michelle.Price@cjb.ville-ge.ch.
