

Bookshelf

Broadleaf Books

Broadleaf Books has for some time been getting new (and old) mostly bryological publications for its customers. We aim to get a discount on new books and then offer them at a lower price than the recommended retail price. We also try to get them swiftly. If you would like to be added to our mailing list for notices of new bryological works, please send us your e-mail address.

We plan to produce a catalogue of secondhand publications some time this year. Besides

bryology it will include books on other aspects of natural history, including ornithology, entomology and mycology. If you want to be placed on our mailing list, please tell us.

Incidentally, a bookshop called Broadleaf Books opened in Blaenavon, south Wales, in July last year. They have nothing to do with us.

Broadleaf Books, Roy & Hilary Perry, 35 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4DH, UK; tel: 029 2051 3382; e-mail: broadleafbooks1@aol.com.

A new Irish bryophyte book

The distribution of bryophytes in Ireland was published in December 2003. The book costs £45 plus postage and packing, but is available to BBS members at the special price of £23 including postage and packing (or £31 for orders outside Great Britain and Ireland). The book is in A4 hardback format, and contains 564 pages with an 8-page colour section. It is accompanied by a searchable CD-ROM.

Ireland has one of the richest bryofloras in Europe with a wealth of Atlantic bryophytes that is shared only with western Scotland. Ireland's bryophytes are among the most important elements of the island's flora, since about 51% of European liverworts occur there (compared to less than 10% of European flowering plants) and the moss flora is almost as rich.

Bryophyte distribution in Ireland is constantly changing. Development and agricultural intensification continue to destroy bryophyte habitats, some introduced species are spreading, and some native species may be responding to

recent climatic changes. In order to provide a sound basis of knowledge for bryophyte conservation in Ireland, it is therefore important to distinguish not only reliable from unreliable records, but also very old records from modern ones, and to document known extinctions.

Throughout the past century the *Census Catalogues* maintained by the British Bryological Society have provided the record of bryophyte distribution for the vice-counties of Ireland. The records are regarded as authoritative because all of the modern additions to the *Census Catalogues* are based on voucher specimens checked by successive BBS Recorders, and almost all of these specimens have been kept in public herbaria.

The need for a detailed review of vice-county records of Irish bryophytes is apparent to all who have attempted to trace the source of a record. The records have appeared in reports spanning more than a hundred years, and corrections have been issued at intervals. Throughout this period there have been

taxonomic changes, often resulting in taxa being split or lumped. Other than the bare lists in the *Census Catalogues*, no overall index of the records or corrections has appeared. *The distribution of bryophytes in Ireland* therefore aims to provide fuller details of the records of each moss and liverwort species (and recognised sub-species and varieties) from each of the vice-counties of Ireland, based largely on data from BBS records.

The book also presents a brief history of bryology in Ireland since 1896, with notes on all the BBS excursions held there, and contains an extensive bibliography of the more important modern literature on bryophytes in Ireland. The book is accompanied by a CD-ROM prepared by Dr Colin French, which contains all of the

vice-county records from the text of the book in a searchable format, allowing lists of records to be generated for each vice-county, locality, year, collector or publication.

All profits from sales of the book will be used by the British Bryological Society to encourage field recording of bryophytes in Ireland by amateur bryologists.

Orders should be sent with a cheque in pounds sterling to the publishers: Broadleaf Books, 35 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 4DH, UK; tel: 029 2051 3382; e-mail: broadleafbooks2@aol.com. Payments in foreign currencies should include the equivalent of an extra £6 to cover exchange costs.

Society business

Future meetings of the Society

Members are reminded to read the BBS Safety Code, which was published in *Bulletin* 43 and is available from local secretaries for inspection during BBS meetings. Please inform local secretaries well in advance if you intend to join a meeting, even if you are not staying at the headquarters accommodation.

Spring field meeting 2004, Worcestershire, 1-7 April

Local secretary: Tessa Carrick, Nuthatch, Moors Farm, Lakeside Court, Upton Warren, Bromsgrove, B61 7EY; tel: 01527 873135; e-mail: tessa@carrickt.fsnet.co.uk.

The base for this meeting will be in the Malvern area, where there is plenty of accommodation and which is within easy reach of interesting sites in the west of the county.

It is advisable to book accommodation well in advance. A list of hotels and bed and breakfast places is available from the local secretary. A limited number of single rooms has been booked for the full week at a Christian Conference Centre in Malvern Link. There may be a few

double rooms available. Bed and breakfast costs £22 per night. The rooms are pleasant and have wash basins, but are not en suite. The Centre is attractive and comfortable with good lounges and plenty of parking. No alcohol is allowed on the premises. Booking for this accommodation must be made through the local secretary, accompanied by a deposit of £10 made out to Tessa Carrick (who has paid a deposit in advance). Full payment must be made on arrival.

On the first evening (Wednesday 31 March) the local organising group will be at the Foley Arms in central Great Malvern where there is a bar and meals are available. The same venue will be used for a talk about Worcestershire on Thursday 1 April, and for the Council meeting on the Saturday evening.

Malvern is reached by leaving the M5 at exit 7, then taking the road towards Worcester, turning left on to the A4440 and left again along the A449. There are trains to Great Malvern and Malvern Link, going through Worcester. A map of the area can be viewed by visiting www.multimap.com.