

Request for loan of specimens of the woodland form (‘var. *sylvaticum*’) of *Ctenidium molluscum*

I am writing an account of the woodland form (var. ‘*sylvaticum*’) of *Ctenidium molluscum*, and would like to see material from as many places as possible in order to prepare a distribution map. Examination of material is also necessary for the preparation of a vice-county list. I would, therefore, be most grateful for the loan

of any specimens that BBS members might have. I have only seen one non-British specimen (from Spain), so any such would also be welcome.

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Bygone Bryologists

This is the first article in a series about prominent British and Irish field-bryologists of the past. The authors would be very pleased to learn of any information that supplements its content.

A more general and at present unfinished *Social and biographical history of British and Irish field-bryologists* is available on-line at <http://ralph.cs.cf.ac.uk/HOB/HOBBintro.htm>.

Henry Herbert Knight (1862-1944)

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Summary of bryological career

Henry Herbert Knight (see Figure 1) was eminent among an unprecedentedly large cohort of field-bryologists born early in the second half of the 19th century and achieving adulthood by the end of that century. They were sufficiently numerous and enthusiastic to make foundation of the Moss Exchange Club (MEC) feasible in 1896.

Knight’s expertise in identifying bryophytes attracted such respect from his peers that he

became the MEC’s distributor of mosses in 1909-10. In 1911 he became referee for hepatics, and held that position until 1933, when deteriorating eyesight obliged him to resign. In addition, he acted as excursion secretary for the British Bryological Society (founded in 1923 to succeed the MEC) in 1927, 1930 and 1936 (Graham, 2002), and became President in 1933.

Knight found no bryophytes new to science, but compiled highly regarded regional bryofloras for Carmarthenshire and Gloucestershire.