

requests from members. It is quite simple to use but it remains to be seen how successful it will prove. The Bulletin Board requires active participation from a number of contributors to keep the momentum going or else it becomes

less of a discussion forum and more of a lonely cry into the emptiness of bryological cyberspace.

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Recording and conservation

New bryophyte recording cards

As the last BBS recording cards were prepared in 1992, the Conservation and Recording Committee recently decided that new cards were needed. At the request of the Committee I have prepared three new cards. The draft designs were discussed by the Committee at their meeting at Aberystwyth in April 2005 (and tested in the field). I have amended the cards in the light of the Committee's comments and they are now available for use.

The nomenclature of the new cards follows Blockeel & Long (1998), *A check-list and census catalogue of British and Irish bryophytes*. The three cards are:

SE England (RP33). Vice-counties 7-32 and 53-54.

Middle Britain (RP34). Vice-counties 1-6, 33-52 and 55-95 (i.e. the areas not covered by the SE England and NW Scotland cards).

NW Scotland (RP35). Vice-counties 96-112.

A fourth card, for **Ireland (RP36)**, is planned. These cards replace the old cards, RP22 (general) and RP23 (SE England).

The most frequent species in the vice-counties listed are included on the record cards. In general, the appropriate card to use will be given

by the vice-county list above, but there will be exceptions. Recorders in the arable lowlands or chalk wolds of South-east Yorkshire (v.-c. 61), for example, might find that the SE England card is more suitable than the Middle Britain card.

Cards are available free of charge to *bona fide* recorders. Please order via the BRC website (www.brc.ac.uk) or write to Val Burton, Biological Records Centre, CEH Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, PE28 2LS (e-mail: vjbu@ceh.ac.uk), **citing the code number of the card you want (RP33 etc.) and the number of cards you require**. Please don't just ask for 'a good number' of cards or 'enough to keep me going for a year or two'!

There are pdf files for the new cards on the BBS website. Also on the website are explanations of the composition of the species aggregates listed on the cards, and details of how the new cards differ from the old. It is also possible to download from the website an excel spreadsheet with the Blockeel & Long (1998) names, abbreviated names and BRC numbers of all species, for those wishing to create their own county cards.

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