

contained fallen trees and small islands. Despite the greater moss density caused by the moister habitat, epiphytes were as scarce on and around the ponds as in the rest of the woods, with just one find each for *Frullania dilatata* and *Ulotia crispa*. *Sphagnum cuspidatum*, *S. fimbriatum* and *S. palustre* were dominant on some of the islands and semi-submerged tree masses in the ponds. Locally scarce species found were *Calliergon cordifolium* at a pond edge, *Plagiothecium undulatum*

on an island, and *Rhytidiadelphus loreus* close to a pond. The species total for the day was 31.

This small study gives a good bryological view of Orlestone Forest: not impressive by national standards but always worth exploring for the occasional interesting find. It has to be pointed out that this is in contrast to many other areas of natural history, for which the Forest is of great value and importance.

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## Web news

### The BBS website

The resources available via the BBS website ([www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk](http://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk)) continue to grow and are frequently updated. Mark Hill has been particularly diligent, and has provided an interim *Census Catalogue*<sup>1</sup> which includes the amendments that have been published annually in the *Bulletin* and *Field Bryology* up to and including 2004. Also available to download is a new checklist of the bryophytes of Britain and Ireland, incorporating the taxa listed in the current *Census Catalogue*, modified to take account of the nomenclatural and taxonomic changes described in the second edition of *The moss flora of Britain and Ireland*. The checklist cross-references the names in these two publications, and provides the names, abbreviations and BRC numbers that are used on the new recording cards (see p 48 of this issue of *Field Bryology*). There is also a MS Word spell check dictionary file that includes both the *Census Catalogue* and the new names. On the BBS home page there is a link to Phil Stanley's Cumulative Index of BBS Publications which

has been brought up to date to include 2004, and is fully searchable.

Material from *Field Bryology* often appears on the website after it has been published, and provisional meeting reports sometimes appear beforehand, if they are sent to me. For example, advice given in the last issue of *Field Bryology* about how to submit new vice-county records has now been incorporated into the site, and I am hoping that further resources for recorders will become available soon.

The Bryophyte of the Month page features a new image each month, and members are encouraged to submit these. We have just started a Bryophyte Portraits section where several images of particularly rare or interesting plants can be displayed together. The first species to be awarded this treatment is *Rhytidiadelphus subpinnatus*.

Another innovation is the BBS Bulletin Board, which can be accessed via the BBS home page. This is intended as an on-line discussion forum where contributors can exchange comments and ideas, and was started in response to some

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<sup>1</sup> Blackstock TH, Rothero GP, Hill MO. 2005. *Census catalogue of British and Irish bryophytes updated 2005*. British Bryological Society: web publication  
<http://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk>, 41 pp.

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](http://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](mailto: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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