

Pseudocalliergon trifarium
Pseudoleskea patens
Pseudoleskeella catenulata
Pterigynandrum filiforme
Pterygoneurum ovatum
Pylaisia polyantha
Racomitrium canescens
Rhizomnium magnifolium
Rhynchostegiella curviseta
Rhytidium rugosum
Schistidium trichodon
Seligeria acutifolia
Seligeria pusilla
Seligeria trifaria s.l.
Sematophyllum micans
Sphagnum affine
Sphagnum austinii
Sphagnum lindbergii
Sphagnum platyphyllum
Sphagnum pulchrum

Sphagnum subsecundum
Splachnum vasculosum
Syntrichia princeps
Tetraplodon angustatus
Thuidium recognitum
Tomentypnum nitens
Tortella densa
Tortella inclinata
Tortella inflexa
Tortula atrovirens
Tortula canescens
Tortula wilsonii
Trichostomum hibernicum
Ulota calvescens
Ulota coarctata
Weissia condensa
Weissia persoonii
Weissia rostellata
Weissia squarrosa
Weissia sterilis

The Threatened Bryophyte Database: an update

N.G. Hodgetts

55 Norton Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6BX

Since its inception in 2003 (Hodgetts, 2003) the Threatened Bryophyte Database (TBDB) has become an integral part of bryological data collection and dissemination. Many BBS members have kindly and freely contributed records of target species, which are now actively informing bryophyte conservation initiatives. How is this happening? Since the original burst of activity, which involved checking and updating the entire Red Data Book database, I have been keeping the database as up-to-date as possible by adding records as they are sent in, as well as incorporating published records from

sources such as the new vice-county records and the 'rare and interesting' column in *Field Bryology*. The advantage of entering records sent directly from recorders is that they often contain much more information than the more synoptic data that usually comprise published records, e.g. information on population size, or a sketch map, or a photograph, all of which can be added to the Recorder 2002 database. This is all useful to conservation workers.

The TBDB is disseminated by sending a copy at intervals to the statutory nature country

conservation agencies in Britain (Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Countryside Council for Wales) and Plantlife, and also to the National Biodiversity Network (NBN), where it can be viewed on-line through the NBN Gateway (<http://www.searchnbn.net>). The NBN Gateway is a very valuable resource, and I would encourage anyone interested to use it. It at least demonstrates that the records that members have so generously contributed are not disappearing into the proverbial 'black hole'! To view a list of localities with finders and dates on the NBN Gateway, you need to register as an NBN user. Once registered you can ask me for 'better access' to the TBDB through 'My Account'. If you do not register, you can view records only at 10-km square level. In practice this means that most *bona fide* conservation workers and active bryologists are given access to the interactive distribution maps and a fairly detailed level of information. Further information that is not directly available through the Gateway (e.g. sketch maps, more detailed population data) may be obtained (if it exists!) directly from the TBDB by contacting me.

The TBDB project adheres to the BBS data access policy (*Field Bryology* **87**: 33-34), which means that data for a very small number of extremely rare and threatened species are treated as confidential, and disseminated only on a 'need to know' basis. Otherwise, information is contributed on the understanding that it is made as widely available as possible, unless a contributor specifically requests that certain data should remain confidential.

Areas where more work needs to be done include building up a picture of selected nationally scarce or declining species, making sure the data are fully sourced, and reviewing the list of target species, perhaps taking some off if they are less threatened than was perceived previously, or adding others that are now seen as more threatened. It would also be nice to produce more short articles in the *Threatened Bryophytes* series (Hodgetts, 2004; Godfrey, 2005), so if anyone would like to write one, please contact me.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to continue to send in your records, including records of the targeted nationally scarce species, as this project, by its very nature, is ongoing. The database needs to be kept up-to-date so that we can provide the nature conservation agencies with good, expert information and thereby do our best to ensure that any decisions made that affect bryophytes are based on the best possible data. Everything you need to know is in Hodgetts (2003) or on the BBS website (<http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/bbs/Bryodiversity/tbdp.htm>); alternatively, you can simply contact me for further details.

References

- Godfrey MF. 2005.** Threatened bryophytes. *Octodicerus fontanum*. *Field Bryology* **87**: 9-10.
- Hodgetts NG. 2003.** The Threatened Bryophyte Database. *Bulletin of the British Bryological Society* **80**: 52-59.
- Hodgetts NG. 2004.** Threatened bryophytes. *Acaulon triquetrum*. *Field Bryology* **83**: 21-22.