

## Dr F.J. (John) Taylor 1925-2006

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John Taylor was born in Rotherham, educated at Rotherham Grammar School and at Sheffield University. He joined the BBS in 1946, the year he became assistant lecturer in botany at University College of Leicester. Subsequently, from 1950 to 1957, he held the position of Lecturer in Plant Physiology at Queen Mary College, University of London. In 1957 he emigrated to Sierra Leone, as the Head of the Department of Botany at Fourah Bay College. Moving to New Zealand in 1966 he took up a position as Butland Fellow in Planktonology at the Leigh Marine Research Laboratory, University of Auckland. To his great disappointment, a tin trunk containing his herbarium of bryophytes collected in Sierra Leone went missing during shipment to Auckland, but his substantial European herbarium, including many Moss Exchange Club specimens, survived the journey.

John was a rather shy man, although jovial with a large unruly beard. He had a deep, mellifluous



**Figure 1.** F. John Taylor and wife Leila, with Jessica Beever (in green shirt), taken 28 August 2004. Photo: Ross Beever.

voice, and, to the ears of his New Zealand students, he retained a strong British accent. He was not active in bryology in New Zealand, but read widely, and continued his membership of the BBS in order to receive the journal. Before his death he offered his bryophyte herbarium to Jessica Beever, who currently curates it as part of her working herbarium.