

HLK Whitehouse Bryophyte Stereo Image Library online at National Museum Wales

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Following the death of Harold Whitehouse in 2000, his herbarium (excluding his Cambridge-shire collections) of approximately 6000 specimens and his bryological archive were donated to the National Museum of Wales, along with a unique collection of stereo photographs of bryophytes. The specimens have been incorporated into the National Welsh Herbarium (NMW) and his bryological papers are housed in the British Bryological Society archive at the National Museum of Wales.

The stereo photographs are the result of a very productive collaboration between Harold Whitehouse and his wife Pat, an accomplished stereo photographer. This online image library is the result of their combined activity over nearly forty years. The collection includes several thousand photographs with images covering approximately 80% of the bryophyte flora of Britain and Ireland. Jonathan Sleath and his son Oliver took on the task of preparing the images for online viewing.

Jonathan selected and scanned the images and constructed the anaglyphs and Oliver constructed the web pages. The web pages feature drop-down menus that give direct access to species of interest or easy browsing of the library. For the majority of the species both the left and right images are presented, as well as a stereo anaglyph that can be viewed with red/green 3-D glasses.

In addition to the photographs the web pages include a series of articles by and about Harold Whitehouse compiled by Jonathan Sleath, and explanatory information about the collection and its digital preparation. The preparation of the library for online viewing is a considerable achievement and the efforts of Jonathan and Oliver Sleath are greatly appreciated.

The library is available to view at: <http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/biosyb/external/bryophyte>, or via the BBS website.