

Announcements and requests

BRECOG soil and bark pH testing

Part of the protocol for the BBS Bryophyte Ecology Group (BRECOG) requires that the pH of substrates is tested. If you are working on BRECOG and need your samples tested you should send them to one of the following:

Soil

Dr Jeff Bates, Imperial College London, Silwood Park Campus, Department of Life Sciences, Ascot, Berks SL5 7PY.

Dr Rachel Carter, 6 Church View, Wooton, Northampton, NN4 7LJ.

Martin Godfrey, 6 Darnford Close, Parkside, Stafford, ST16 1LR.

John O'Reilly, 78 Woodside, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 8AP.

Dan Wrench, 80 North Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 2JH.

Bark

Dr Jeff Bates as above.

Corrected version of *The Moss Flora of Britain and Ireland* by AJE Smith

Members will be aware that the first printing of the second edition of *The Moss Flora of Britain and Ireland* contained a significant number of errors. As a result, Cambridge University Press (CUP) has published a corrected printing of the paperback edition (but not of the hard back edition).

Council considered whether or not to contact the publishers on behalf of members but decided that the Society was not a party to any dispute between purchasers of the first issue of the publication and CUP, and should take no action on behalf of purchasers. However, members might like to note

that some purchasers had themselves approached CUP and received a free copy of the revised, paperback issue.

Members should also note that a list of errata, prepared by Howard Matcham with contributions from others, is available on the BBS web site at www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk. I will be happy to send a printed list of the errata to those members who do not have access to the internet.

Contact: Mike Walton, Ivy House, Wheelock Street, Middlewich, Cheshire, CW10 9AB.

The bryophyte flora of our roof-tops and gardens

Our domestic gardens are of surprising biodiversity value, but until recently have been largely ignored by ecological studies (see *e.g.* www.bugs.group.shef.ac.uk). In order to help understand the composition and richness of the bryophyte flora of our increasing number of roof-tops and gardens, I would be very pleased to receive bryophyte inventories for any domestic property in Britain or Ireland. A submission for a property should include the following please:

- Name of the bryophyte recorder.
- The address of the property.
- Vice-county number.
- A six-figure OS grid reference of the location of the property.
- A comprehensive list of the bryophytes that presently occur within (and on) the boundary of the property, including as far as possible anything on roofs. NB: please exclude any species that have been deliberately introduced into the garden by a resident bryologist!
- The total area (m²) encompassed by the boundary of the property.
- The approximate year in which the house was built.

It would be very nice to obtain the above information for over 100 properties in Britain and Ireland, in a format similar to the example submission below. Once sufficient data are gathered, a paper with an analysis of the results will be written. The compiled dataset (minus property addresses) will be sent to the Biological Records Centre and will be made freely available to anyone interested. I

very much look forward to receiving your contribution towards what promises to be an interesting piece of work. I would like to receive all submissions by **25th December 2007**, ideally by email or otherwise by post.

Contact: Des Callaghan (descall@blueyonder.co.uk), 51 Bishopdale Drive, Rainhill, Prescot, Merseyside L35 4QQ.

Example submission

Bryophyte recorder: Des Callaghan

Property address: 51 Bishopdale Drive, Rainhill, Prescot, Merseyside L35 4QQ

Vice-county: 59

OS Grid Reference: SJ499910

Bryophyte list: *Amblystegium serpens* var. *serpens*, *Barbula convoluta*, *Barbula unguiculata*, *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum*, *Bryum argenteum*, *Bryum bicolor*, *Bryum capillare* var. *capillare*, *Campylopus introflexus*, *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Dicranella schreberiana*, *Dicranella staphylinia*, *Didymodon fallax*, *Eurhynchium praelongum*, *Fissidens taxifolius*, *Fissidens viridulus*, *Funaria hygrometrica*, *Grimmia pulvinata*, *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Pohlia wahlenbergii* var. *wahlenbergii*, *Pseudephemerum nitidum*, *Rhynchostegium confertum*, *Schistidium crassipilum*, *Tortula muralis* var. *muralis*, *Tortula truncata*, *Trichodon cylindricus*.

Property area: 160 m²

Year house built: 1965