

micro-climate for epiphyllous bryophytes, which are more commonly a feature of tropical regions. There are only a few isolated records of epiphyllous bryophytes at scattered locations in Britain, such as *Metzgeria violacea* in the Chiltern Hills (Porley, 1996) and Hampstead Heath (Duckett, 2008), and these are the first epiphyllous bryophytes recorded in Worcestershire.

***Orthotrichum pulchellum*. 37:** Epiphyll on the leaves of mature Box within a mixed canopy woodland on a north-facing hill side, Gloucester Coppice, Wolverley, SO833796, 2023, A. Hill. Found in the same location as *Metzgeria violacea*, though the *O. pulchellum* was less abundant (Fig. 9). This is the first record in the BBS database of the species growing as an epiphyll.

***Rhynchostegium riparioides*. 39:** Wall top by canal, Loynton Moss, SJ7824, 2020, M.F. Godfrey. A seemingly drier habitat than is usual, at least this far east in the British Isles, being about a metre or so above any water in December.

***Sematophyllum substrumulosum*. 28:** Plantation woodland edge, 8–30 m alt., Ken Hill, TF6735, and Dersingham Common, TF6829, 2022, J. Masson, conf. S.L. Pilkington. Following the first vc record, made by Sharon Pilkington in 2020 at Ken Wood, searches resulted in these two further records, this time on horizontal branches of *Rhododendron* overhanging damp ditch. This differs from the usual recorded substrate of decorticated conifer logs.

### Contributors and checkers of records

T.L. Blockeel, A. Bolton, M.A.S. Burton, D.A. Callaghan, J. Denyer, D. Doogue, M. Ghullam, M.F. Godfrey, G.R.L. Greiff, C. Halpin, A. Hill, M.O. Hill, R.L. Hodd, D.T. Holyoak, J. Hughes, N. Jardine, D.L. Kelly, R.V. Lansdown, M. Lyons, H.W. Matcham, J. Masson, J.A. Norton, S.L. Pilkington, C.D. Preston, J. Reynolds, G.P. Rothero, S. Rubinstein, B. Scott, G. Smith, M.D. Sutton, J. Warren, S. Yardy.

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**Sam R. Amy**

e samamy@ceh.ac.uk

## BookReview



### The hidden world of mosses

Neil Bell, 2023. 220 pp.

Paperback.

RBGE Publications.

ISBN 978-1910877456.

New bryological books come along so infrequently that the publication of any is a cause for celebration. Usually they are quite academic, and although of great interest to committed bryologists, may not be so appealing to those dipping their toes into the

subject. This book is aimed more at the serious general natural historian, curious to find out a little more about bryophytes, and is such an attractively produced publication that it should entice anyone with more than a passing interest in the subject to investigate further.

Despite the title, the book does include liverworts, with a nod to hornworts. The subject matter covered is wide-ranging, including basic bryophyte biology, ecology and physiology. Current debates around subjects such as evolutionary history and biogeography are also included, as well as topical subjects such as climate change and the ‘temperate rainforests’ of

Britain and Ireland. The coverage is by no means parochial, with examples of species and habitats from across the globe.

I was particularly impressed by Neil's command of the international academic literature, which peppers the writing with fascinating insights. For example, I had no idea that there was evidence that the growth of individual *Sphagnum* plants in a hummock was coordinated through lunar cycles. A comprehensive chapter of references is given at the end of the book. His enthusiasm for the subject is evident, and there is a generous use of the exclamation mark.

Undoubtedly one of the chief glories of the book is the use of large colour illustrations showing the breathtaking beauty and detail of bryophytes. I am not aware of anything similar since the Malcolms' *The forest carpet*, published over 30 years ago. Many are by Des Callaghan, demonstrating again what can be done with knowledge, experience, skill, patience

and the best equipment. Neil is obviously no mean bryophyte photographer himself. Since the images are such an important part of the publication, and macro-photography is now so popular, it might have been interesting to have had a small appendix about photographic techniques.

To call this a coffee table book would be unfair, but it certainly would grace any piece of furniture, and it difficult to know why any reader of *Field Bryology* would not want a copy on their bookshelves. Neil and the team at RBGE Publications are to be congratulated on such a well-designed, attractive, stunningly illustrated and interesting book. It has potentially quite a wide readership, and I hope that it sells well and fulfils the objective of introducing more people to the world of bryophytes.

**Jonathan Sleath**

e jonathan.sleath@btinternet.com

## Future Meetings

For all future meetings please check the BBS website regularly for updates

### Spring meeting 2024 – Hungary

Saturday 6 April to Saturday 13 April

This is the third time that this has been planned. By the time this comes to press accommodation and travel will have been booked. Any enquiries to Peter Erzberger erzberger.peter@gmail.com

### Spring meeting UK 2024 – Lincoln

Saturday 9 March to 16 March

Margaret Crittenden and Steve Heathcote have generously agreed to organise this meeting jointly. Contact Mags Crittenden mcrittenden24@gmail.com

### Summer Meeting 2024 – Islay

Saturday 15 June to Saturday 27 June

This is an island with very varied geology and it should

provide some interesting bryology. Contact Sharon Yardy sharon\_y@hotmail.co.uk

The location for next year's AGM is not yet confirmed, but it is hoped that it will be held at Exeter University at the beginning of September, before university term starts and that there will be a slightly extended field meeting to accompany it.

Meetings for the following year, 2025, are planned to include a trip to Freiburg organised by Michael Lueth and meetings in Ireland organised by Jo Denyer and Rory Hodd. We do not yet have any ideas for an UK Spring meeting for 2025 or for an AGM and would welcome any suggestions. It is hoped that there will be a meeting in Slovenia in 2026 run by Simona Strgulc Krajsek.

**Philippa Thompson** Meetings Secretary

e meetings@britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk

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