

Monographs in Systematic Botany from the Missouri Botanical Garden 83: 1–133. Ochyra, R., H. Bednarek-Ochyra & P. Szmajda. 1990. *Racomitrium fasciculare* (Hedw.) Brid., pp. 19–22. In R. Ochyra & P. Szmajda (eds.), Atlas of the Geographical Distribution of Mosses in Poland. 5.

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Of far more importance than its title would imply, this volume should quickly become an essential reference in any bryological library. The title, in fact, is unfortunate because it can only call to mind those dreary British productions with their tedious tabulations of numbered vice-counties. The present work is in no way similar.

The unillustrated text consists of 10 sections, not counting the introduction and summary, most of which are various kinds of lists. Leading off is a “Systematic Arrangement of Taxa” organized according to the systems of Vitt et al. (1998) and Buck and Goffinet (2000) “with some modifications and changes resulting from our own ideas of evolution and phylogeny.” For each taxon is given the scientific name with authors and a Polish name. It is this list that is cross-referenced with superscripted numerals to the massive section (96 pages) of “Annotations” that is the real meat of the work. Then follow lists in which bibliographic references are given for each taxon, with supraspecific taxa being listed in the same sequence as the first list and species taxa listed separately in alphabetical order. Two pages are devoted to excluded taxa.

The alphabetical list of “synonyms” is where you find out what the moss you always knew by another name is called in this book as the result of the many new combinations introduced here. This is followed by an alphabetical list of Polish names. Inventing “common” names for mosses has always struck me as an unrewarding activity. Still, for the shared taxa, it might be amusing to compare the Polish names with the Icelandic ones in Jóhannsson’s bryoflora of Iceland if only someone could be found with an intimate knowledge of Icelandic, Polish, and English. A third alphabetic list consists of genera with an indication of the family in which each is placed in this work. These three lists function more or less as indices, which the book otherwise lacks. A list of abbreviations used for authors of moss names that appear in this catalog gives the author’s name in full, with year of birth and death. A 58-page bibliography precedes a list of “Taxonomic and Nomenclatural Novelties.”

The 17 new taxa proposed in this work comprise one new genus (*Diobelonella* Ochyra for *Dicranella palustris*), eight suprageneric taxa and eight infrageneric ones. There are 10 new synonyms, mostly of infrageneric taxa. By my count, there are a staggering 278 new combinations, 178 of which are in the Grimmiaceae, mainly segregates of taxa formerly included in *Grimmia* and *Racomitrium*. There are also 51 new combinations in *Campy-*

lidium (ex *Campyllum* or *Campylophyllum*), *Hymenoloma* (ex *Dicranoweisia*), and *Rosulobryum* (ex *Bryum*). These changes are fully discussed in the “Annotations” and are extended to all the species within a given genus, so that new combinations are made for species that occur far from Poland, with consequences affecting nomenclature around the world.

I don’t doubt that there will be considerable grumbling about some of this. The old familiar *Grimmia*, for example, had already been reduced by the removal of such genera as *Schistidium* and *Coscinodon* prior to the very recent revisions of the genus by Muñoz and Pando (2000) and Greven (2003). With the ink scarcely dry on the latter, Ochyra et al. divide the Polish species that Greven included in *Grimmia* among *Dryptodon*, *Guembelia*, *Hydrogrimmia*, *Orthogrimmia*, and *Grimmia* in its most restricted sense yet. They also recognize as full species two that Greven synonymized. Greven (p. 6) stated that because of morphological variability a world-wide key for the 93 species of *Grimmia* that he recognized “does not work.” If there are really multiple genera to be recognized among these 93 species, one is compelled to ask “Why not?” A lot of other toes of recent revisers have been stepped on in this volume and it is safe to predict that some of the changes promulgated here will not be embraced enthusiastically in all quarters.

Regardless, the “Annotations” are a mine of information on the latest revisions of species, genera, and families of mosses occurring in Poland, many of which are common to the rest of Europe and North America. Thus, this book will be an extremely handy source for finding the most up to date references for the characters, status, and relationships of many well-known or widely distributed taxa of mosses.

Someone will doubtless complain that such a regional checklist is not a proper forum for so much innovation and compilation, but given that the authors were constrained by circumstance to produce a list of Polish mosses, they can scarcely be faulted for not wishing to use a classification that they believed to be inadequate. As a result, instead of a pedestrian local catalog, they have produced a scholarly work of far-reaching consequence and immense utility.

LITERATURE CITED—Buck, W. R. & B. Goffinet. 2000. Morphology and classification of mosses, pp. 71–123. In A. J. Shaw & B. Goffinet (eds.), *Bryophyte Biology*. Cambridge University Press. Greven, H. C. 2003. *Grimmias of the World*. Backhuys Publishers, Leiden. Jóhannsson, B. 1989–2003. Íslenskir Mosar. Fjölrit Náttúrufræðistofnunar. Muñoz, J. & F. Pando. 2000. A world synopsis of the genus *Grimmia*. *Monographs in Systematic Botany*, Missouri Botanical Garden 82: 1–133. Vitt, D. H., B. Goffinet & T. Hedderson. 1998. The ordinal classification of the mosses: questions and answers for the 1990s, pp. 113–123. In J. W. Bates, N. W. Ashton & J. G. Duckett (eds.), *Bryology for the Twenty-first Century*. Maney Publishing, Leeds.—STORRS L. OLSON, *National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560, U.S.A.*