

This book describes and illustrates in detail the 763 species of mosses currently known to occur in the British Isles, and incorporates the most up-to-date information available on classification and nomenclature, together with recent synonyms. The species descriptions provide information on frequency, ecology, geographical relationships and distribution, including information on protected species and those species at risk. For many species there are footnotes to aid identification. In addition to the species descriptions there are descriptions of families and genera and also introductory information on conservation, collection, preservation and examination of material, together with advice on using the keys. An artificial key to genera provides the only workable comprehensive key to European genera published in the English language. As a further aid to the user a list of English names for all British mosses is included, plus a comprehensive glossary and bibliography.

This second edition incorporates the very considerable advances in knowledge of mosses made in the last quarter of the twentieth century. In this time 8 species new to science have been described in Britain, 25 species not previously known in the British Isles have been discovered and taxonomic revisions have led to the addition of a further 51 species. Fourteen species have been removed bringing the total number of species described to 763. Additionally, modern taxonomic methods have led to an increase in the number of genera from 175 to 214.



Tony Smith received undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from Lincoln College, Oxford, before embarking on a research and teaching career at the University Colleges of Swansea and Bangor. He became Reader in Botany at the University of Wales, Bangor in 1981, retiring from this post in 1999. His book publications include *Bryophyte Ecology*, *The Liverworts of Britain and Ireland* and *Atlas of the Bryophytes of Britain and Ireland* (with M. O. Hill and C. D. Preston). He was editor of the *Journal of Bryology* for 14 years and Secretary of the British Bryological Society's distribution maps scheme for 30 years. He is currently an Honorary Member of the British Bryological Society.

Cover illustrations: front – young plants of *Polytrichastrum formosum* (Hedw.) G. L. Sm; back – *Syntrichia papillosa* (Wilson) Jur.

Photographs by Dr S. R. Edwards.



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