

European Committee for the Conservation of Bryophytes

Minutes of the Board Meeting held at the Ragunda Conference Centre, Bispgården, Sweden.
23 November 2005

Present:

Lars Söderström (Lars.soderstrom@bio.ntnu.no)

Marko Sabovljevic (marko@uni-bonn.de sabmar@hotmail.com)

Tomas Hallingbäck (Tomas.Hallingback@artdata.slu.se)

Geert Raeymaekers (Geert.Raeymaekers@ecosystems.be or Geert.Raeymaekers@biz.tiscali.be)

Beata Papp (pappbea@bot.nhmus.org)

Jeniffer Rowntree (j.rowntree@kew.org)

Kymmo Syrjonen (Kimmo.Syrjonen@ymparisto.fi)

Cecilia Sergio (Csergio@fc.ul.pt)

Jiri Vana (vana@natur.cuni.cz)

Apologised: Margeret Ramsey, Ron Porley, Edi Urmi

The meeting took place during the final conference of the BRYOPLANET project. LS welcomed the participants and informed us that Margaret, Ron and Edi could not attend the meeting. The report of the last meeting in Valencia (report prepared by Ron Porley) was approved.

A. REPORTS

Lars Soderstrom:

Represented ECCB at the Planta Europa Meeting in Sienna (April 2004);

Together with Ron Porley, LS was successful in following up one of the main targets of the Valencia meeting: the Euromoss checklist (see below).

KimmoSyrjanen:

Reported that Finland is presently completing a book on threatened bryophytes and that work is in progress to draft a new red list of bryophytes from Finland.

Cecilia Sergio:

The red list of bryophytes of the Iberian Peninsula is ready and was presented at the Bilboa meeting of the Spanish Bryological Society; the red list will be updated on the basis of the information of the Euromoss list.

The Spanish bryologists will publish a red data book of bryophytes from Spain.

Jiri Vana:

Contributed to the Euromoss checklist

The 3rd revision of the Czech bryophyte red list is ready but publication is pending;

The red list database (in Czech) is accessible on the web

Tomas Hallingback:

IUCN-Bryophyte Specialist group: re-invited existing members and invited new members. New members are David Meager (Australia), Noris Salazar Allen (Panama), Nathalie Laura Clevitt (US), Jaime Aguirre (COL), Yelitza Leon (Venezuela), Denise Pinheiro da Costa (Bresil).

Tomas Pocs and Rod Seppelt retired and Celina Matteri passed away.

Jane Smart (IUCN SSC officer for Plants) contacted TH to search the IUCN-Bryophyte Specialist work group to collaborate on a work list of threatened and rare plants by 2010.

Geert Raeymaekers:

Reported on the implementation of the EU-Habitats Directive and emphasised that over the next years most of the attention will go to the preparation of the monitoring requirements (art 17) of the Directive. A checklist of Belgian bryophytes has been published, No progress on red lists of bryophytes from Belgium.

Marko Sabovljevic:

The ECCB database of contact persons has been updated with several contacts for SE-Europe: Carmina Collacino (Albania / Italy), Ardan Erdag (Turkey), Henryk Klama (Poland). No reply from contacts from Crete, Macedonia, Russia and Ukraine.

A new bryological society in SE- Europe has been created and a website has been put up.

A preliminary red list of bryophytes of Serbia-Montenegro is being prepared;

Jane Smart (IUCN) invited Marko to collaborate to the Mediterranean Plant Group.

Reported that the European Congress for Conservation Biology (also "*ECCB*" but written in italics) will meet in Hungary in August in 2006 (BP and LS will try to attend this meeting).

Beata Papp:

Reported on the progress of the IPA project in Hungary and Spain and the introduction of bryophytes into this initiative (see IPA below).

The new checklist of bryophytes from Hungary can be downloaded from the Museum's website. <http://www.nhmus.hu/tarak/novenytar/studia/erzberg.pdf>.

A redlist of bryophytes is in preparation.

Jennifer Rowntree:

18 species are now cryo-preserved in liquid nitrogen at the ex-situ collection of Wakehurst (Kew Botanical Gardens)

The bryophyte ex-situ conservation project got good publicity across the UK (BBC programme on this initiative).

LS presented report from Ron Porley on *Leptodontium gemmacens* and RP's problem to obtain fresh material from abroad.

B. THE EUROMOSS PROJECT and related issues

LS reported how the Euromoss project was successfully completed after this ECCB project was agreed at the Valencia meeting: Ron Porley contacted Tom Blokeel, who apologised for not being able to collaborate and consequently Mark Hill was contacted; he enthusiastically took up the job and set up a network of experts. The Euromoss-checklist is planned to be ready by the end of this year and will be published in the Journal of Bryology in 2006.

The ECCB Board thanks Mark Hill for taking the lead in this project and for bringing it to a successful end within a short period.

The draft list can be found on: <http://www.euromoss.org/>

Action: LS to thank M. Hill for his hard work.

The ECCB has also been working on a country database of European mosses. The question was asked how we could ask people to fill in country presence/absence data. The deadline to complete the country data was set for the Planta Europa Meeting in Cluj in 2007.

Action: LS will put the database on the ECCB website and urge members and country contacts to collaborate.

C THE ECCB website

LS recognised that the ECCB-website (<http://www.bio.ntnu.no/ECCB/>) is not very well developed, nor very attractive. The Board members suggested to improve the website by: providing short information about the past ECCB conferences, to list the contact persons, to announce the documents prepared by the ECCB and to put the IUCN-Red list paper as pdf file on the website. LS informed that someone at the University in Trondheim can be asked to “beautify” the website.

Action: LS sends email(s) to board members to seek more suggestion to improve the website.

D IMPORTANT PLANT AREAS.

BP and LS reported on efforts in Spain and Hungary to include bryophytes into IPAs. The problem is that many of the proposed criteria to select IPAs are not well applicable when bryophytes are concerned. The Board agreed that it is not the aim to create a network of IBrAs (Important Bryophyte Areas), but that we need to have a better tool to integrate bryophytes into the IPA process. As there will be a European Congress for Conservation Biology (“ECCB”)-meeting in Eger in 2006, the following was decided:

BP will draft a list of “problem points” (e.g.: Which criteria of IPA are difficult to use for bryophytes and why?) and together with LS, she will contact a selected number of bryologists (ES, HU, ...) interested in IPA to discuss these points during a one-day workshop at that meeting in Eger. Hence, we should try the Important Bryophyte Areas (“IBrA”) in some areas to see if bryophyte choices deviates from plant choices, so as a means to test the “bryophytes”.

Then a solution can be found on how to integrate bryophytes into the IPA-initiatives and the issue can be further discussed or a solution proposed at the Planta Europa Meeting in Romania in 2007.

Action. BP and LS to act.

E. RED LISTING OF EUROPEAN BRYOPHYTES

Related to the red listing of bryophytes according to the IUCN criteria, TH wanted to have a better definition of “individual”, “generation time”, and “severely fragmented” to apply the IUCN criteria more fully.

An important part of the discussion focused on the need to come up with a new red list for bryophytes – using the IUCN threat categories. Ideas were proposed on how specialists could be asked to come to workshops to help us on specific taxa (e.g. Lars Hedenas on pleurocarps, Greven/Munoz on Grimmiaceae, Blom on Schistidium etc), to propose an extra ECCB workshop to “eliminate” the least-concern taxa, and how the work could be phased for mosses and liverworts.

The following actions were agreed:

Start with the liverworts. LS will send the liverwort list to JV before December 2005. In the first phase, we will “eliminate” the least-concern taxa, in the second phase, the other taxa will be assessed on their threat status:

1. JV will indicate the least-concern taxa and will introduce preliminary remarks on other species- without being complete; The ECCB-Board members will receive this list by the end of 2005 and will further indicate least-concern taxa by the end of January 2006. Their comments will be complied by LS (?). Also the ECCB country contacts can be contacted to express their view.
2. TH will ask his institute to host an ECCB Board Meeting in Uppsala during the 2nd part of 2006 (September – October) to have workshop with the aim to assess IUCN threat status to the other liverworts. As a final step, experts will be contacted to contribute to the reds list.

The aim is to complete the liverwort red list in the Spring of 2007.

Concerning the mosses, as soon as the Euromoss list is finalised, the ECCB will follow the same procedure as the liverwort red list.

F. ECONOMY

Financial support has always been a problem for the ECCB and the organisation is constantly looking for support. Additionally, as long as the ECCB is not a registered "legal body", it will remain impossible to obtain financial support for the organisation as such. The registration issue was not discussed at the Board Meeting.

GR also indicated, that as the ECCB is an European organisation, funding is more likely to occur if one proposes projects in the framework of the Natura 2000 implementation.

G: OTHER BUSINESS

LS asked the Boards approved to support the "Countdown 2010" initiative: The Board agreed and LS will formally inform Countdown 2010 organisation. For more info about this initiative see: http://www.countdown2010.net/index_topics.htm

LS reported RP's question on the problem to transfer living collections for biodiversity research and the "red tape" associated with it. RP asked in how far the ECCB could facilitate the search and transfer of such material. The Board agreed that it can do little and that BRYONET can be best used to search for material. GR will also contact RP to write up his problem for the Bryological Times;

No other issues were tabled.

LS thanked the ECCB Board for the effective meeting and looks forward to successful collaboration and results over the next year: He closed the meeting.

Report by Geert Raeymaekers