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Barbula nana C. Müll., a new synonym of *Trichostomum* *brachydontium* Bruch

W. Frey and H. Kürschner (Freie Universität, Berlin) submitted for our determination some samples collected in the Near East that were published by them as *Tortula* cf. *nana* (C. Müll.) Broth. (Frey & Kürschner, 1988). We have studied the holotype of this species (in BM) and have concluded that it is not related to *Tortula* Hedw. or to *Barbula*.

In the original description, Müller (1875) placed *Barbula nana* in *Barbula* sect. *Tortella* and compared this species with *Desmatodon nervosus* De Not. (*Tortula atrovirens* (Sm.) Lindb.), which he distinguished only by its recurved leaf margin. In our opinion, this observation has only served to cause confusion, because Müller's type material of *Barbula nana* does not resemble *Tortula atrovirens* at all.

Brotherus (1902) transferred *Barbula nana* to the genus *Tortula*, probably on the basis of the comparison (*Barbula nana* versus *Desmatodon nervosus*) of Müller (1875). Thus, Brotherus (1902, p. 430) included *Barbula nana* in the *Tortula* group characterized by short, straight or slightly twisted peristome teeth, and costa excurrent in a short mucro, similar to *Tortula atrovirens*, *T. guepinii* B. & S., *T. fusco-mucronata* (C. Müll.) Broth., etc. Brotherus (1902) wrote 'Wahrscheinlich auch *Barbula nana* C. Müll. im Erkaut, östl. vom Roten Meer' (probably also *Barbula nana* C. Müll. in Erkaut, east of the Red Sea), indicating its relation to that group. If we take into consideration that the material that Müller used to describe the species only had young sporophytes, the hypothesis that Brotherus had not seen these samples acquires weight.

On the other hand, Brotherus apparently never formally proposed the *Tortula nana* (C. Müll.) Broth. combination, although it appears in this form in van der Wijk, Margadant & Florschütz (1959).

Studying the holotype of *Barbula nana* (Felsspalten a. d. Spitze des Erkaut 5164', 16. Septb. 1868, C. Müller, neo 11/75), we have been able to determine the specimen as *Trichostomum brachydontium* (without sporophytes) mixed with another moss, which seems to be close to the genus *Pleurochaete* Lindb.

Trichostomum brachydontium is a very polymorphic species of which numerous infra-specific taxa have been described including a large list of synonyms. Furthermore this species shows a cosmopolitan distribution (Duell, 1984, 1992).

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Grimmia britannica A. J. E. Smith, new to Portugal

During a visit to Serra de Monchique in Algarve, Portugal, on 7 February 1994, my wife Patricia and I collected a *Grimmia* with capsules, which I, after some hesitation, identified as *G. britannica* (Smith, 1992). I sent a part of my sample to the author, Dr A. J. E. Smith, who confirmed my determination with the comment that: 'Your plant is the largest and most vigorous specimen of *Grimmia britannica* that I have ever seen'. Furthermore Dr Smith stated that this moss is new to the Iberian Peninsula.

The plant was growing in profusion on granite boulders of the top cairn of Fóia (37°19' N, 8°36' W, 902 m altitude). This mountain is a volcanic outcrop of partly unique geological composition 'formed of foyaite and syenite' (Polunin & Smythies, 1973).

Vouchers have been deposited at S and UCNW.

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