

About the Book

For more than ten years I have been working on a book on bryophyte ecology and was joined by Heinjo During, who has been very helpful in critiquing multiple versions of the chapters. But as the book progressed, the field of bryophyte ecology progressed faster. No chapter ever seemed to stay finished, hence the decision to publish online. Furthermore, rather than being a textbook, it is evolving into an encyclopedia that would be at least three volumes.

Having reached the age when I could retire whenever I wanted to, I no longer needed be so concerned with the publish or perish paradigm. In keeping with the sharing nature of bryologists, and the need to educate the non-bryologists about the nature and role of bryophytes in the ecosystem, it seemed my personal goals could best be accomplished by publishing online. This has several advantages for me. I can choose the format I want, I can include lots of color images, and I can post chapters or parts of chapters as I complete them and update later if I find it important.

Throughout the book I have posed questions. I have even attempt to offer hypotheses for many of these. It is my hope that these questions and hypotheses will inspire students of all ages to attempt to answer these. Some are simple and could even be done by elementary school children. Others are suitable for undergraduate projects. And some will take lifelong work or a large team of researchers around the world. Have fun with them!

The Format

The decision to publish *Bryophyte Ecology* as an ebook occurred after I had a publisher, and I am sure I have not thought of all the complexities of publishing as I complete things, rather than in the order of the planned organization. But I wanted to reach a worldwide audience that included not only professional bryologists, but beginners, non-bryologist ecologists, teachers, naturalists, anyone who wanted to know something about bryophytes. Many of these people would never be willing or able to pay the cost of such a book in print copy. And the cost of the numerous color plates would be prohibitive.

Some chapters have been easier for me to do and some will simply need help from others. The "book" will actually be multiple volumes, with the first being physiological ecology, but including an introduction to the broad classification of phyla and classes, morphology, structures, and life cycles. Communities, habitats, roles, interactions, and methods, among others, are in various stages of completion. Large chapters and those with many images difficult to download, so chapters are broken into smaller segments that I shall call subchapters. Sections, chapters, and subchapters will not always be posted in order, so each begins new pagination. Where possible, I will try to number sections of a chapter continuously.

New chapters will be added as they are ready but may not cover all planned topics at the onset. Bryologists are encouraged to send me text or images for consideration, or to volunteer to write a chapter. I am considering making this like an online journal with reviewers, but that needs more planning and is likely to make style and nomenclature inconsistent. Your thoughts on the idea would be appreciated.

Acknowledgments

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