Phytotaxa 128 (1): 1–63 (2013)
www.mapress.com/phytotaxa/

Monograph

ISSN 1179-3155 (print edition)
PHYTOTAXA
ISSN 1179-3163 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.128.1.1

PHYTOTAXA

128

Contribution to the knowledge of the bryophyte flora of Ecuador

A. SCHÄFER-VERWIMP[1], M. LEHNERT[2] & M. NEBEL[2]

[1]) *Mittlere Letten 11, 88634 Herdwangen-Schönach, Germany;*
email: moos.alfons@kabelbw.de (corresponding author)
[2]) *Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart, Rosenstein 1, 70191 Stuttgart, Germany*

Magnolia Press
Auckland, New Zealand

Accepted by Lars Söderström: 11 July 2013; published: 3 Sept. 2013

A. SCHÄFER-VERWIMP, M. LEHNERT & M. NEBEL
Contribution to the knowledge of the bryophyte flora of Ecuador
(*Phytotaxa* 128)

63 pp.; 30 cm.

3 September 2013

ISBN 978-1-77557-258-9 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-77557-259-6 (Online edition)

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 2013 BY

Magnolia Press

P.O. Box 41-383

Auckland 1346

New Zealand

e-mail: magnolia@mapress.com

http://www.mapress.com/phytotaxa/

ISSN 1179-3155 (Print edition)

ISSN 1179-3163 (Online edition)

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Abstract

Fifty species, one subspecies and one variety of liverworts, as well as three species and one variety of mosses are newly reported for the bryophyte flora of Ecuador, based on extensive fieldwork in 2011 and 2012. 371 new province records of liverworts and 5 of hornworts are increasing the number of liverwort and hornwort state records from 1744 to 2120.

Key words: diversity, hornworts, liverworts, mosses, Neotropics

Introduction

The bryophyte flora of Ecuador is very diverse. León-Yánez *et al.* (2006) reported 695 liverwort and 15 hornwort species, whereas Churchill (1994) and Churchill *et al.* (2000) list about 950 mosses. However, field work in 2003, 2004, 2011 and 2012 indicated that the bryophyte flora of Ecuador is only incompletely known. Even species new to science may be found in relatively well explored regions, e.g. *Archilejeunea nebeliana* Gradstein & Schäfer-Verwimp (2012: 108), *Cololejeunea kuciana* Pócs & Schäfer-Verwimp (2012: 51), *Cololejeunea stotleriana* Gradstein *et al.* (2011: 13), *Lobatiriccardia oberwinkleri* Preußing *et al.* (2010: 1435) and *L. verdoornioides* Preußing *et al.* (2010: 1437), as well as several still undescribed species of *Diplasiolejeunea* (Dong *et al.* 2012). León-Yánez *et al.* (2006, table 3) also demonstrated that the knowledge on Ecuadorian bryophyte diversity differs between provinces.

In the present study we list the distributional data of newly reported Ecuadorian taxa referring to León-Yánez *et al.* (2006), Churchill *et al.* (2009), Benitez & Gradstein (2011), Benitez *et al.* (2012) and Drehwald (2003); altitudinal ranges are only given if our new records represent altitudinal range extensions. In cases where we do not adopt the nomenclature of León-Yánez *et al.* (2006) we add their corresponding taxon in brackets. Voucher specimens are deposited in STU, QCA and herb. ASV, further duplicates are indicated. All determinations were made by ASV if not indicated otherwise.

Abbreviations:
ASV & MN = leg. A. Schäfer-Verwimp with M. Nebel
MN & ASV = leg. M. Nebel with A. Schäfer-Verwimp
***** = new to Ecuador

ANTHOCEROTOPHYTA

Dendroceros crispus (Sw.) Nees

Orellana: Yasuní National Park, Amazonian lowland rain forest around Yasuní Research Station, 0°40' S, 76°24' W, 220 m, epiphytic, 8 Mar 2012, *ASV & MN 32813/B*.

A widespread neotropical species, known from Galápagos and Tungurahua; new to Orellana.