



THE LEAFY LIVERWORTS FROM CUBA

Leveles májmohák Kubából

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Cuba is home to many plant species, including bryophytes, which are distinctly distributed in the phytogeographic regions of this country (Occidental, Central and Eastern). Especially in the cloud forests and rainforests of the mountainous regions of Eastern Cuba there is a high diversity of bryophytes due to the optimal natural and ecological conditions for the occupation of the habitats there generated. About 500 liverwort species are currently known for Cuba. Among them, the largest leafy liverwort families are Lejeuneaceae, Frullaniaceae, Plagiochilaceae, Lepidoziaceae and Radulaceae. The history of the Cuban hepaticology can be split into three epoches: 1) before 1970, when there were very few collecting records, most of them made by foreign botanists; 2) from 1970 on, when thanks to a convention between the Cuban and Hungarian Science Academies Dr. Deisi Reyes Montoya, former PhD student of Prof. Dr. Tamás Pócs, was trained to study liverworts and became the first Cuban hepaticologist who contributed later to the formation of the new generation of Cuban bryologists; furthermore, within the framework of the Flora de la República de Cuba project hundreds of bryophyte specimens were collected in Cuba between the late 1970s and the beginning of the 1980s, which, yet unidentified, are part of the collection of the herbaria JE, EGR, HAC, BSC, among others; and 3) at the present time, the collecting of liverworts has expanded throughout the territory of the Caribbean country. The aim of this project is to first determine the specimens and with the resulting data to carry out a floristic study with focus on taxonomy and historical biogeography of the liverwort taxa of that country. So far, several new records have been detected including new species to science.