



**BRYOLOGICAL EXPLORATION OF THE DOBERAI (VOGELKOP, BIRD'S HEAD)
PENINSULA IN NORTHWESTERN NEW GUINEA**

Az északnyugat-új-guineai Doberai (Vogelkop, Madárfej)-félsziget
mohaflórájának kutatása

Tamás Pócs^{1*} & Tibor Kovács²

¹*Department of Botany, Institute of Biology, Eszterházy Károly Catholic University,
H-3301 Eger, Pf. 43, Hungary;* ²*Mátra Museum of the Hungarian Natural History
Museum, H-3200 Gyöngyös, Kossuth Lajos u. 40, Hungary;*
**E-mail: pocs.tamas33@gmail.com*

The Doberai (Vogelkop, Bird's Head) Peninsula in northwestern New Guinea covers approximately 55,000 km², yet its bryophyte flora, particularly its liverwort and hornwort diversity, remains insufficiently documented. Early contributions were based on collections made in the Arfak Mountains by Odoardo Beccari, Pieter van Royen and by Takasi Tuyama during by the end of the twentieth century, identified mostly by Riclef Grolle. 163 liverwort and hornwort species had been reported from the region, with three additional species published in 2006.

Since 2019, entomologist Tibor Kovács has collected epiphyllous liverworts and hornworts mostly on Batanta Island, which forms part of the Bird's Head region. The specimens were identified by Tamás Pócs and compared with published records from the Doberai Peninsula and New Guinea. Three published papers arising from this collaboration documented 34 species new to the peninsula, including two species, *Cololejeunea tiberii* and *Tuyamaella batantana* described as new to science. Two further papers, accepted for publication in *Acta Botanica Hungarica*, add 27 new regional records, including the new species and two new varieties.

These results increase the known flora of the Doberai Peninsula and its adjacent islands, including Batanta, to five hornwort and 227 liverwort species, while also extending the known geographical ranges of numerous taxa. Nevertheless, the recorded diversity remains strikingly low in comparison with much smaller but better-studied tropical regions; for example, 313 liverwort species are known from the 2,512 km² island of Réunion. This disparity indicates that the bryophyte diversity of the Doberai Peninsula is still needs further studies. Continued field collecting, the identification of previously unstudied herbarium material, and comparisons with recently published Indomalasian checklists will provide a stronger basis for future taxonomic and phytogeographical analyses.