

PREFACE.

The present treatise is an introduction to a synoptical Moss-Flora of Europe and N. America, ready as manuscript.

It is an essay to define all here belonging genera of Bryineæ and to dispose themselves in natural families with attention also to exotic genera and species. To clear their natural affinity I have often found that the common habit (»habitus») of the plants indicates the place in the system; it is also a »criterium« not to depreciate.

To state »a priori» the vegetable organs, of which the characters are to be chosen, does not agree with nature. There are to be found in a certain genus constant characters, which in another are very variable. »Character non dabit speciem, sed species characterem».

Recent bryologists have attached too great an importance to the organisation of the peristome. The exostome (the outer or the simple peristome) is in many genera, also in individuals, variable. The endostome of the capsule gives indeed good constant characters also in exotic, by the author examined genera and species.

Sterile specimens, so often occurring, ought not to be neglected. A trained bryologist, well-intimate with the organisation of the moss-leaves, can sometimes find new species, as well characterized, as if the specimens were fertile.

The author was beginning his bryological studies in Sweden already 1851; bryology was his speciality 1879.