

BOOK REVIEW

A Revised Moss Checklist of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. Research Pamphlet No. 133. KT Yong, BC Tan, BC Ho, QY Ho & H Mohamed. Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Kepong, Malaysia. 152 pp. ISBN 978-967-5221-99-6. RM60/USD36.

This work is a product of almost 25 years of bryological exploration and research in Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore since the previous checklist (Mohamed and Tan 1988) came out in 1988. The area comprising Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore is home to 512 species of mosses, roughly comparable to 435 taxa reported from the Australian Wet Tropics (AVH 2014), with which it shares many taxa. This checklist contains the latest scientific information and was produced in order to provide government planners with the tools to properly manage this group of plants in a sustainable way and to guide conservation programs in Malaysia and Singapore. It also serves as an important bibliographic reference for botanists in Malaysia and, because many moss species are widespread, in neighbouring countries.

The book contains synonymy for all species and infraspecific taxa, as well as state distributions and references to published reports. It also has notes on identifications that have changed and have led to taxa being excluded. In the front of the book is a map, which gives the numbers of species and infraspecific taxa recorded from each state, and in the back are 11 pages with excellent photos of a selection of the moss taxa that are treated in the book and the habitats in which they occur, giving the reader a quick idea of the diversity – and beauty – of the group.

Some people might miss the protologue information, but I think it is a good decision to leave it out, especially given the intended larger audience. I would have liked to see a separate

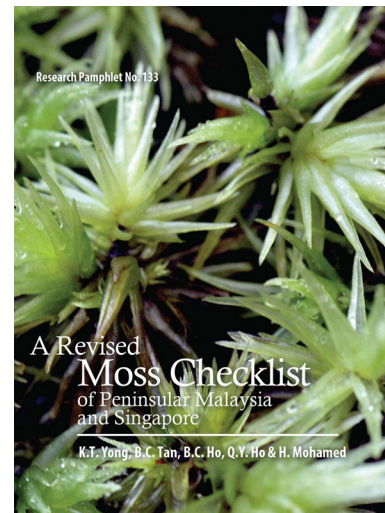
list of genera with classification. Also, while the family placement

of the pleurocarpous mosses appears to adopt modern classification, I noticed that among the acrocarpous mosses, sometimes more traditional family circumscriptions were followed, for example the traditional Bryaceae and Dicranaceae. None of this, however, does anything to diminish the value of the work. It would be good for the information in the book to be available online as well, so I hope to see at some point an accompanying web application that can be kept up-to-date.

It is great to see that there are now quite a few local bryologists active in the Malesian region and I am hoping to see updated checklists for other parts of Malesia appear in the near future, maybe even one for the whole region.

REFERENCES

- AVH. 2014. *Australia's Virtual Herbarium*. Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria. [Http://avh.chah.org.au](http://avh.chah.org.au). Accessed 11 March 2014.
- MOHAMED MAH & TAN BC. 1988. A checklist of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. *The Bryologist* 91: 24–44.



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