

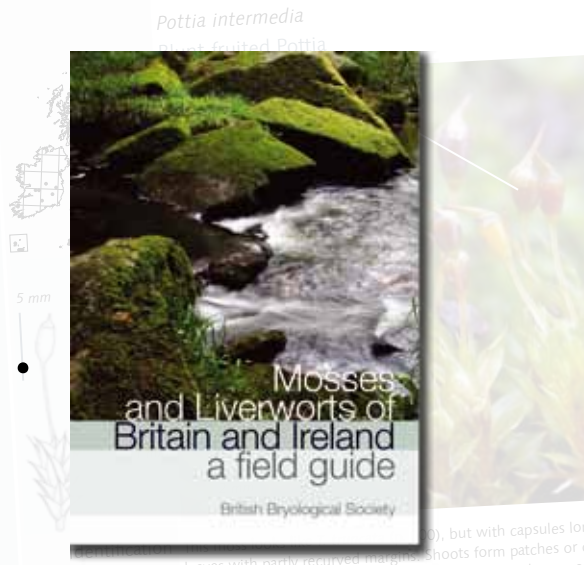
Tortula viridifolia

Pottia crinita

Bristly Pottia

FieldGuideUpdate

Almost there...



The final countdown to publication of the long-awaited BBS *Field Guide* has started. Although it may appear from the website that little has been happening recently, a huge amount of work has been going on in the background in preparation for the publication of the first edition in early 2010.

Jungermanniales



Following a rigorous period of field-testing last winter by the contributors and a number of other experts – a team of around 50 people – Mark, Sam and myself have been working throughout the spring and summer to collate and implement many of the suggestions for revision of the texts to ensure that each species description is as comprehensive and scientifically accurate as possible. In addition, many new photographs and drawings have been supplied to complement the text.



At the time of writing, contributors are checking the final proofs of their species accounts, and the three of us are preparing for the final part of the process, adding the bells and whistles, such as a comprehensive index, cross-reference page numbers, scale bars for all illustrations, up-to-date maps, etc. Our schedule is such that the final press files should be delivered to the printers before or very shortly after Christmas.

Identification

Similar species

Earlier this year we distributed a number of order forms, and published an advert in a number of UK-based wildlife publications. As members of the BBS, you should have received an order form in the last issue of *Field Bryology*.

To date, we have received over 1,100 pre-publication orders for the book, exceeding our expectations. Interestingly, only a small proportion of those orders have come from BBS members!

So, if you haven't yet ordered your copy or if you have mislaid your order form, please contact Mark Lawley (see below). Although the limited pre-publication offer of £19.95 ends on 31 October 2009, the full price is only £24.95, which continues to represent unparalleled value for a peerless publication. More than 750 species are beautifully illustrated, with brief identification notes about the remaining members of the British and Irish bryoflora.

Following publication of the book, new PDFs of the published version of the species accounts, the field key and the *Sphagnum* key will be uploaded to the BBS website.

The three of us have enjoyed collaborating on this major project over the last 3 years, and with the finishing line well and truly in our sights, we eagerly anticipate publication of the first edition. We hope that this book will not only be seen as an important addition to the bryologist's bookshelf – and rucksack – but that it will stimulate interest among the wider community of naturalists and ecologists, spreading the word about the beauty and importance of bryophytes and helping to enhance conservation efforts.

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Species, and grows in a wide range of habitats. Most typical are the tops of moss-covered sandstone boulders in woodland or on open hillsides, small sandstone rocks embedded in the woodland floor, decaying logs that are covered in liverworts, and peat in heathland.