

ATLAS OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF MOSSES IN POLAND

by

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"Atlas of the geographical distribution of mosses in Poland" is the main chorological project of the Institute. It is a part of the general project dealing with mapping all cryptogams in Poland. The "Atlas" of mosses is published at irregular intervals in fascicles including ten species.

To date, four fascicles have been published [4, 6-8] and one fascicle is currently in press [5]. Intense work on mapping mosses in Poland was initiated in the late 1970's and Ochyra and Szmajda [3] presented all methodological foundations for this atlas. The traditional method of mapping by means of dots has been abandoned and the national grid square system of 10 x 10 km has been used. For each species detailed distribution maps in Poland are given. They are accompanied by an extensive list of localities, including herbarium and reliable literature data, a description of ecology and account of the general distribution of a species.

Furthermore, generalized distribution maps in Europe, Holarctic and in the world are compiled for each species. More rapid progress is expected in the near future in mapping mosses in Poland. It is strictly associated with two projects which intend the compile of distribution maps for two important phytogeographical groups of mosses.

H. Bednarek-Ochyra is currently completing her doctorate thesis on the occurrence of the montane species of mosses in the lowlands [2]. This work should result in at least 130 distribution maps. She is also still continuing her work on glacial relicts of mosses in Poland [1], an interesting phytogeographical group consisting of about 30 species. On the other hand, the work of P. Szmajda, Poznań, will contribute distribution maps for about 100 species of the oceanic and suboceanic species. In the near future distribution maps for more than 300 species of mosses should be ready i. e. approximately 50 % of the total number of species now known to occur in Poland will have distribution maps.

References

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