
B.J. O’Shea

141 Fawnbrace Avenue, London SE24 0BG, UK

**Abstract.** All specimens in BM labelled *Phyllodon truncatus* or *P. truncatulus* have been examined, together with two new Uganda collections, and all African species conform to the type of *P. truncatus*, and all American species conform to the type of *P. truncatulus*. Buck’s (1987) assessment of this genus is supported, and it is confirmed that *P. truncatus* does not occur in Africa.

Buck (1987) reviewed the genus *Glossadelphus* and transferred some species to *Phyllodon*, including *Glossadelphus truncatus* (Welw. & Duby) Fleisch. and *G. truncatulus* (Müll. Hal.) Fleisch., between which he took care to distinguish, particularly emphasising the unusual bifid teeth in the latter. Tixier (1988), presumably in ignorance of this paper, made *G. truncatus* a synonym of *G. truncatulus* and made no mention of *Phyllodon* and, as a result, several recent African collections have been named *G. truncatulus*. Both papers were missed when compiling the checklist of sub-Saharan African mosses (O’Shea, 1995), and Buck’s was also missed when compiling version 2 of the checklist (O’Shea, 1997), although Tixier’s was adopted. Having now seen Buck’s paper and examined five African specimens (including the type of *P. truncatus*), and seven specimens from Central and Southern America (including the type of *P. truncatulus*), I can confirm that all African specimens are *P. truncatus*, and all American specimens are *P. truncatulus*, and the two taxa can be distinguished on additional characters such as size (the leaves of *P. truncatulus* are much bigger). This will be discussed further in a future review of the genus in Africa. This cannot be considered an exhaustive survey of African collections, but those seen covered a reasonable geographic spread, and were all very similar, and unlike *P. truncatulus*. It may be that *P. truncatus* could be regarded as a sub-species of *P. truncatulus*, but they certainly appear to be two separate taxa.

**Distribution:** *P. truncatus* is recorded from Ivory Coast, Togo, Bioko, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Zaire, Uganda and Angola.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA. Bioko (Fernando Poo). Nr. Moka, epiphytic on rock, 1220 m, 9 Dec 1951, *s. coll.*, 22 (BM).


References


