

MEMOIR OF THE
III SIMPOSIO LATINOAMERICANO DE BRIOLOGIA
Briología en el Neotrópico
July 13-17, 1992 - Mexico City, Mexico

INTRODUCTION

Botanical history has recorded significant contributions of bryology to its conceptual development and to man's scientific knowledge. The discovery of sexual chromosomes in plants by Allen and the production of the first polyploids by Wettstein are but two scientific achievements in which bryophytes had an outstanding role. Currently, their use in environmental monitoring and the identification of active principles, make bryophytes objects of great pragmatic interest.

Latin America has not been fertile ground for bryophyte-oriented studies. However, because of its high floristic diversity, bryological research and aspects of bryophyte use and conservation related to the area cannot be maintained apart from modern scientific thinking. In addition, it would be expected that a meeting of those interested in neotropical bryology would supply scientific information, identify and offer solutions to regional bryological problems and contribute to the development of Latin American bryology. These were the objectives of the symposium organized by Sociedad Latinoamericana de Briología in Mexico City.

The meeting was the first of its kind in Mexico and was attended by students and well known Latin American bryologists. Most contributions to the Symposium are here reproduced, including two special lectures by S.R. Gradstein and by R. Spjut *et al.* It is hoped that they truly represent a profile of current research on neotropical bryology.

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