

## Notes on the Neckeraceae (Musci). 19. The identity of *Porothamnium ceylonense*

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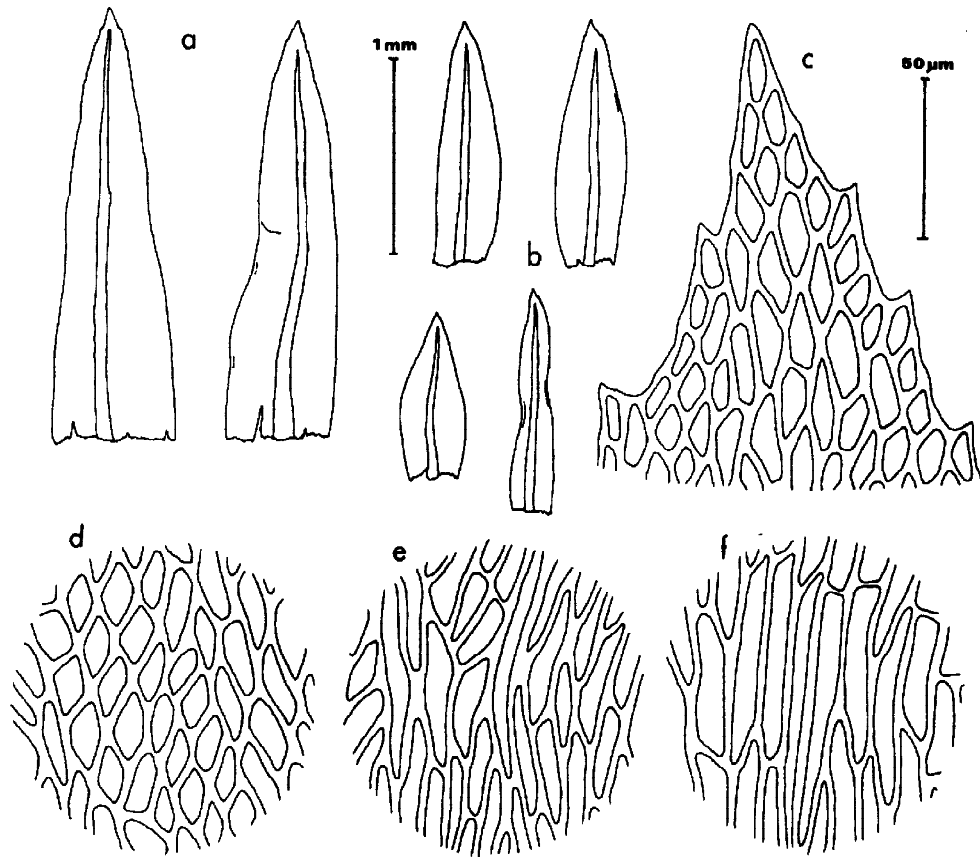
**Abstract:** Based on the gametophyte characters, *Porothamnium ceylonense* Fleisch. is transferred to *Thamnobryum* Nieuwl. and the combination *T. ceylonense* (Fleisch.) Enroth is made. The species is lectotypified and line drawings of it are provided.

Fleischer (1908) described *Porothamnium ceylonense* Fleisch. in connection with the protologue of the genus *Porothamnium* Fleisch. He discussed the distinctions between *Porothamnium* and *Thamnium* B.S.G. (= *Thamnobryum* Nieuwl.): "Von der Gattung *Thamnium* unterscheidet sich die Gruppe besonders durch weicheren Habitus, meist verflachte Beblätterung, mehr zungenförmige Blätter mit lockerem, gestrecktem, etwas papillösem Zellnetz und schwächerer Rippe." Only one feature, namely the strongly elongate median laminal cells, of the type specimen of *Porothamnium ceylonense* in Fleischer's herbarium conforms with his circumscription of *Porothamnium*. The leaves of *P. ceylonense* are not at all complanate and their shape is lanceolate rather than ligulate. The leaf cells are thick-walled and smooth, and the costa is very strong, proximally about 120 - 130 µm wide in the stem leaves. A few

proximal stipe leaves are remaining in the single frond of the type specimen. They are scale-like and pale, appressed to the stipe, and their margins are plane. In *Porothamnium* the stipe leaves are spreading to squarrose and have narrowly recurved margins (cf. De Sloover 1983). The stipe leaf characters as well as the strong costa of *P. ceylonense* are quite typical of *Thamnobryum*, and the following combination is thus necessary:

19. *Thamnobryum ceylonense* (Fleisch.) Enroth *comb. nov.* (Fig. 1)

*Porothamnium ceylonense* Fleisch., Musci Fl. Buitenzorg 3: 928. 1908. LECTOTYPE (selected here): Sri Lanka, without further information (FH! "Original-Typus, ex herb. Peradenyense"). ISOLECTOTYPE probably PDA (not seen).



**Fig. 1.** *Thamnobryum ceylonense* (Fleisch.) Enroth. - a: Two stem leaves. b: Four branch leaves. c: Apex of branch leaf. d: Apical laminal cells. e: Median laminal cells. f: Basal laminal cells. - Use the 1 mm scale for a and b, and the 50  $\mu\text{m}$  scale for c-f.

Pending a global-scale taxonomic revision, many species of *Thamnobryum* remain poorly understood. However, *T. ceylonense* (Fleisch.) Enroth can be distinguished by the combination of (1) the narrow, lanceolate stem leaves, (2) the still narrower, lanceolate to ligulate branch leaves, (3) the abaxially smooth costa, (4) the relatively thick-walled leaf cells, and (5) the highly variable but generally strongly elongate median and basal laminal cells. The possible variability of *T. ceylonense* is unknown, since the species is known only from a single collection.

#### Acknowledgments

I thank the Curator of FH for loaning the type specimen of *Porothamnium ceylonense*.

#### Literature cited

- De Sloover, J. L. 1983.** Note de bryologie africaine XII. *Porotrichum* et *Porothamnium*. Bull. Jard. Bot. Natl. Belgique 53: 97-152.
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