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Special issue of Bryophyte Diversity & Evolution: 50th anniversary of IAB

In 1969, an international group of bryologists established an association welcoming everyone seeking to further our knowledge on the biology of bryophytes. Fifty years later, the International Association of Bryologists (IAB) has slightly over 350 active members worldwide. Over the past decades, IAB has promoted bryology by establishing bryonet, a forum for discussions and questions, managed by Dr. Janice Glime, by publishing a regular newsletter, The Bryological Times sharing information about various developments in bryology, by publishing major reviews on specific subjects through the *Advances in Bryology*, by disseminating contributions to the diversification of bryophytes through *Bryophyte Diversity and Evolution*, by organizing biennial meetings, including in association with the sexennial International Botanical Congress, and by honoring colleagues for their achievements and stimulating research through grants. All these are made possible through the exemplary commitment by colleagues serving on the council, the editorial boards and the various ad hoc adjudication committees. To all, my and the members' sincere gratitude.

On the occasion of the (recent) fiftieth anniversary of the association, I am delighted to see colleagues leading major advances in bryology accepting the invitation to contribute to this anniversary issue, and thereby strengthen the foundation for BDE to serve as a premier international journal in bryology. On behalf of all IAB members, I wish to sincerely thank Dr. Michael Stech for serving as editor and Drs. Paulo Câmara, Rafael Medina and Jesús Muñoz for leading the review process. Drs. Matt von Konrat and Dietmar Quandt composed a diverse roster of invited contributors and their commitment to initiating this issue was essential.

I trust that we can all reward their efforts and recognize the impact that this issue will have by considering *Bryophyte Diversity and Evolution* as a reference medium to share major contributions to bryology.

Dr. Bernard Goffinet
President of IAB