

280

13. *Bryum pseudoblandum* T. Kop. & Norris,
species nova (Fig. 6)

Amplum, saepe intense rubrum, nitidum. Caulis ad 5 cm altus, dense foliosus. Folia erecto-patentia, amplexantia, 1.6 - 2.2 mm lata, 3.1-4.0 mm longa, late ovata vel ovata, acuta, ad apicem carinata, basi breviter decurrentia et cordata, marginibus integris, cellulis incrassatis linearibus 2 - 6 seriatis limbatis. Costa saturate rubra, breviter excurrent. Cellulae mediae 22-32 μ m latae, 87 - 110 μ m longae, anguste elongatae, sexangulares, prope apicem breviores, parietibus pariter incrassatis, rubris in specimenibus veteribus; cellulae basales rectangulares vel rotundatae, plus minusve inflatae, parietibus gracilibus.

Holotype: Papua New Guinea. Morobe Prov. Mt. Sarawaket Southern Range 2.5 km S of L. Gwam and E of Mt. Enggum, headwaters of Sankwep R. Deep S-sloping valley with scattered scrub and springs, alt. 3500-3570 m 6° 21'S, 147° 07'E, on cliff, 9.VII.1981 T. Koponen 32716 (H, isotypes in HSC and LAE).

Large, stems Up to 5 cm, lustrous, often with strong red colour. Leaves densely inserted, erect-spreading, clasping, 1.2-2.0X3.1-4.0 mm, broad ovate to ovate, acute, keeled at the apex; margin entire, bordered by 2-6 rows of linear incrassate cells; costa deep red, excurrent in a short point; median leaf cells 10-32X72-112 μ m, narrow elongate, hexagonal, shorter near apex; cell walls equally thickened, red in old specimens; basal leaf cells thin-walled, rectangular to rounded, \pm inflated; leaf base shortly decurrent,

cordate. Seta ca. 2 cm, reddish brown. Capsule ca. 2 mm, horizontal to cernuous, pale brown when young, old capsule dark brown, constricted below the mouth. Operculum short acute. Peristome complete, with narrowly perforated segments and nodose cilia. Spores 12-17 μ m.

B. pseudoblandum is related to *B. blandum* and the keys used (Ochi 1970a, Scott et al. 1976) lead to it. However, *B. blandum* has narrower, concave leaves which are consistently obtuse, and the costa does not reach the leaf apex. With its excurrent costa *B. pseudoblandum* is more like *B. handelii* Broth. but the latter has very narrow linear leaf cells (the type of *B. handelii* in H-BR seen). Ochi (1968b) considered *B. blandum* and *B. handelii* as subspecies of *B. blandum* but this may be unnecessary. Two of the present specimens (nos. 32701 and 32706, with sporophytes) represent a smaller form of *B. pseudoblandum*, in which the costa does not reach the apex. In them the leaf cells also are smaller and strongly incrassate (Fig. 6:f-h), and resemble some forms of *B. blandum*. Some other names were checked (*B. cheelii* Broth., *B. crassum* Hook. f. & Wils.) in H-BR but our specimens differ. The description of the sporophyte is based on specimen no. 32706.

B. pseudoblandum is a high elevation plant (Fig. 8) and, accordingly, most of the collections came from Mt. Sarawaket area. It was collected in two different habitats, both constantly wet, viz. in bogs and swamps where it may even be submerged, and along the shores of rivulets. It often forms large pure cushions. Statistics on its substrates: submerged in bog or in rivulet (5 specimens), in bog or swamp (4) and on gravel covering rocks at rivulet (4).

Range on the Huon Peninsula (paratypes): 3l. 61095, 61097. 6a. 31598, 31599, 31638, 31661. 6j. 63310. 6k. 32701, 32706, 32715, 32717. 6u. 62759.

Range in Western Melanesia: First record.

Total range: Endemic to New Guinea.

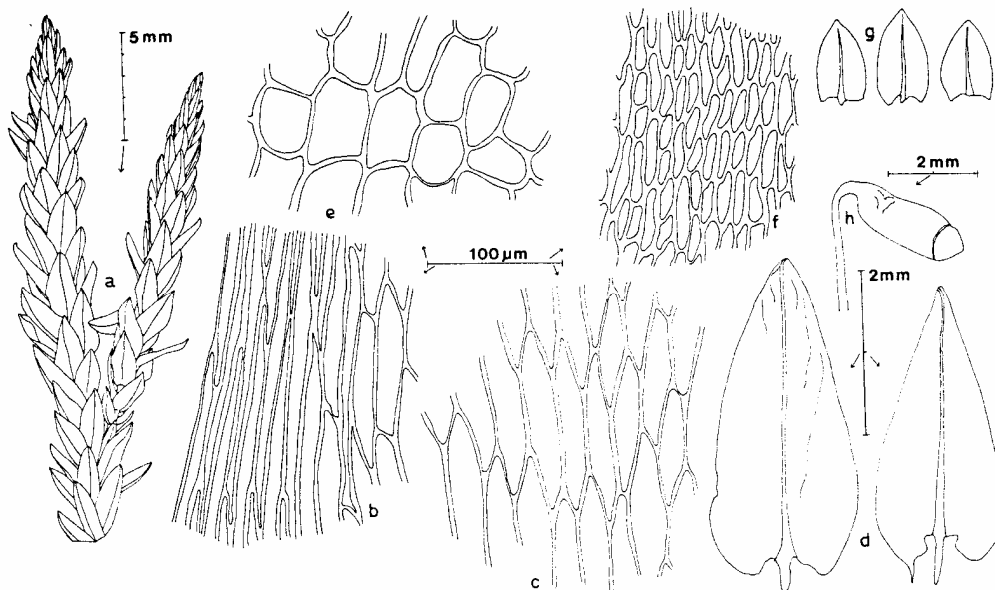


Fig. 6: a-g: *Bryum pseudoblandum* T. Kop. & Norris. (a-e from *Koponen* 31638, f-h from *Koponen* 32706). a: Growth habit. b: Leaf border. c, f: Median leaf cells. d, g: Leaves. e: Basal leaf cells. - Scales shown by arrows (the longer "2 mm" scale for d and g).