

CYRTO-HYPNUM VERSICOLOR (THUIDIACEAE, BRYOPHYTA) IN RUSSIA  
CYRTO-HYPNUM VERSICOLOR (THUIDIACEAE, BRYOPHYTA) В РОССИИ

TATYANA I. KOROTEEVA<sup>1</sup>, ALINA V. FEDOROVA<sup>2</sup> & MICHAEL S. IGNATOV<sup>3,4</sup>

ТАТЬЯНА И. КОРОТЕЕВА<sup>1</sup>, АЛИНА В. ФЕДОРОВА<sup>2</sup>, МИХАИЛ С. ИГНАТОВ<sup>3,4</sup>

Abstract

*Cyrto-hypnum versicolor* is found for the first time in the Kuril Islands. This species was hitherto known in Russia only from the mainland, in Primorsky Territory. The species is extremely variable, and two collections from Russia represent opposite limits of its variation. The Kurilian specimen represents a marginal phenotype that is impossible to identify using keys in any floras. The illustrations and discussion on this variation is provided. The partial molecular phylogenetic analyses indicate a close relationship of Kurilian specimen with *C. versicolor*, although numerous differences in ITS sequences point out a necessity of a much broader analysis, making also the species promising for phylogeographic studies.

Резюме

*Cyrto-hypnum versicolor* впервые найден на Курильских островах. Этот вид был известен в России из единственного местонахождения в материковой части Российского Дальнего Востока, в Приморском крае. Для него характерна чрезвычайно широкая вариабельность морфологических признаков, и два образца из России представляют противоположные крайности этого варьирования, так что курильский образец оказалось невозможно определить по ключам в различных определителях. Приводятся иллюстрации и обсуждение варьирования российских образцов. Данные молекулярно-филогенетического анализа, проведенного на небольшой выборке, также указывают на принадлежность курильского образца к *C. versicolor*, хотя его довольно многочисленные отличия в последовательностях ITS говорят о необходимости более широкой выборки, что делает этот вид перспективным для изучения филогеографии.

KEYWORDS: mosses, variability, ITS, mammillae, papillae

INTRODUCTION

The Far Eastern region is contrastingly different in its moss flora from the most part of Northern Asia. There are many temperate and subtropical relics in the area (Lazarenko, 1944; Bardunov & Cherdantseva, 1982; Ignatov, 1993).

Among other, the Far Eastern flora, as well as the whole East Asian one, is characterized by more numerous species of Thuidiaceae and Leskeaceae than any other longitudinal sector of the Holarctic (Bardunov & Cherdantseva, 1982).

Despite of a careful exploration of Thuidiaceae in Japan and adjacent areas by Watanabe (1972), and recent revisions for China (Wu et al., 2002) and Japan (Noguchi, 1991), some plants from Russian Far East do not fully correspond descriptions, and some of them there described as new taxa. Among them, *Thuidium thermophilum* Czernyadjeva from thermal fields of Kamchatka (Czernyadjeva et al., 2006), and the *Actinothuidium hook-*

*eri* subsp. *boreale* Ignatov, Ignatova, Z. Iwats. & B.C. Tan, a northern segregate of a widespread East Asian species (Ignatov et al., 1999).

In the course of exploration of the thermal habitats and their flora in Kuril Islands, one inegmatic specimen was collected by the first author. Plant grew on rock, with creeping stem, firmly attached to substrate by rhizoids and represented in collection mostly by branches and branchlets, which surface cells were mammillose. Comparison with the specimens known in Russia, as well as with the keys and descriptions in various Asian floras and taxonomic revisions of Thuidiaceae did not allow its certain identification.

A molecular phylogenetic analysis of the DNA sequence data was recently developed as a powerful method for resolving problems of difficult species delimitation, confirming or rejecting separate status of a putatively new species, correcting generic and familial placement and stopping sometimes endless debates on these mat-

<sup>1</sup> – Institute of Marine Geology and Geophysics FEB RAS, Nauki Str., 1B, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, 693022 Russia. e-mail: tatjana\_05@mail.ru

<sup>2</sup> – Lomonosov Moscow State University, Belozersky Institute of Physico-Chemical Biology, Leninskie Gory 1-40, Moscow 119991 Russia; e-mail: alina\_77777@mail.ru

<sup>3</sup> – Lomonosov Moscow State University, Biological Faculty, Geobotany Dept., Leninskie Gory Str. 1-12, Moscow 119991 Russia misha\_ignatov@list.ru

<sup>4</sup> – Main Botanical Garden, Russian Academy of Sciences, Botanicheskaya Str., 4, Moscow 127276 Russia – Россия 127276 Москва, Ботаническая 4, ГБС РАН

ters (e.g., Huttunen *et al.*, 2013; Ignatova *et al.*, 2010, 2015; Ivanova *et al.*, 2015). Thus, such exploration was conducted for this specimen from the Kuril Islands in addition to its morphological study.

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimen in question was sequenced for ITS and *trnL-F*, the most common markers available in GenBank for mosses.

We used an alignment prepared for publication of Ignatov *et al.* (2007), which resulted in a tree principally similar to other analyses of the group (e.g., Huttunen *et al.*, 2012).

Laboratory protocol was rather standard, described in, e.g., Ignatova *et al.* (2016).

Data on specimen sequenced *de novo* and GenBank numbers of the previously used specimens are in Appendix 1. The trees were rooted on *Hookeria lucens*, a representative of the order sister to Hypnales. Sequences were aligned manually in Bioedit (Hall, 1999).

Bayesian analyses were implemented in MrBayes v.3.1.2 (Huelsenbeck & Ronquist, 2001), with four compartments: *trnL-F*, 5.8 rDNA, ITS1, ITS2. The HKY+I model was used for the two former regions, while the internal spacers were analysed with GRT+I model, according to model test (Lanfear *et al.*, 2012). Three parallel runs were implemented, each with five chains and 1000000 generations (25% burnin), a temp parameter value of 0.15 and parameters unlinked between partitions.

#### RESULTS

Preliminary tests with the separate chloroplastic and nuclear partitions showed that the phylogenetic signal from the chloroplast *trnL-F* is low and the tree based on this marker is poorly resolved. At the same time, the analyses of ITS and ITS+*trnL-F* gave subidentical topologies, differing only in the position of our Kurilian specimen in question. In both cases it was found within a clade of *Cyrto-hypnum*. The difference was that in the ITS+*trnL-F* tree the Kurilian plant was found in paraphyletic grade to the crown formed by *C. minutulum*, and near Chinese specimen of *C. versicolor* (GenBank sequence, ITS only available). In the analysis based on ITS only, Kurilian plant and Chinese *C. versicolor* were resolved in a clade (PP=1) nested in polytomy of *C. minutulum*. As the difference in results apparently related to the absence of *trnL-F* data, only ITS is shown here (Fig. 1).

The obtained tree provides a topology in general corresponding to the natural units found in Hypnales by Huttunen *et al.* (2012). Among them the high support (PP=0.99) was found for the clade of Amblystegiaceae+*Lindbergia*+Pseudoleskeaceae+Leskeaceae+Thuidiaceae. Two latter families, the Thuidiaceae and Leskeaceae, formed a clade with the maximal support. The taxa of this clade formed a broad polytomy with several smaller clades and individual species, which points out the difficulty in the segregation of Leskeaceae from Thuidiaceae, discussed already by Gardiner *et al.* (2005) and Ignatov *et al.* (2007).

However, the clade formed by *Thuidium* and *Cyrto-hypnum* obtained a maximal support in this analysis. Moreover, all *Thuidium* and all *Cyrto-hypnum* species within this clade were also resolved as monophyletic and with the maximal support.

An enigmatic moss from Kuril Islands appeared deeply nested in *Cyrto-hypnum*, in a subclade with the Chinese specimen of *C. versicolor* (PP=1.0), and this subclade was sister to *C. minutulum* subclade. Thus, all further discussion will be about this genus.

#### DISCUSSION

There were two problems with identification of this difficult Kurilian plant. It differed from the descriptions of *Cyrto-hypnum versicolor* in the following points:

- paraphyllia were absent on stem;
- truncate paraphyllia-like structures with multipapillose apical cell occurred only around branch primordia;
- all surface cells of stem, branches and branchlets were mammillose, with mammillae rather even in shape and size throughout branches and branchlets and stem fragments from its middle part (cf. Fig. 1: 10), as the uppermost parts of stem were missing in the collection.

The second problem was in a contrasting difference in morphological characters between Kurilian plants and the only previously known collection of *C. versicolor* in Russia, from Primorsky Territory. Primorsky' specimen had larger size of plants as compared to Kurilian one, dense paraphyllia on stem, paraphyllia totally absent on branches and branchlets, and branch leaves long acuminate, with multipapillose apical cell.

If these two specimens were compared alone, their conspecificity would be definitely rejected.

At the same time, a cross-comparison of the descriptions provided by Watanabe (1972), Norris & Koponen (1985), Noguchi (1991), Touw (2001), Fang & Koponen (2001), and Wu *et al.* (2002) convinced us that this is not impossible. It seems that the range of variation of *C. versicolor* was never fully described, but it appears from the superimposing facts of variation from the comments made by different authors, which are as follow:

- “Paraphyllia on stem, rare on branches, absent on branchlets” (Fang & Koponen, 2001, page 31).
- “Paraphyllia abundant on stems, sparse on branches and lacking on secondary branches, usually short, 2–4 cells long, rarely foliose, ending in a truncate or acute, papillose cell, simple on stem, rare on branches, absent on branchlets” (Noguchi, 1991, page 862).
- “Paraphyllia densely growing on stems, usually simple, 2–6 cells long, apical cells truncate and papillose, rarely acute and branched” (Wu *et al.*, 2002, page 177).
- “Paraphyllia crowded on main stem, rarely also on branches, but fewer on the latter, filiform, 1–3 cells long, apical cells crowned with 2–4 papillae (Watanabe, 1972, page 182).
- “Stem paraphyllia to 5 cells long, scattered to closely set; intermediate cells smooth to strongly papillose; api-

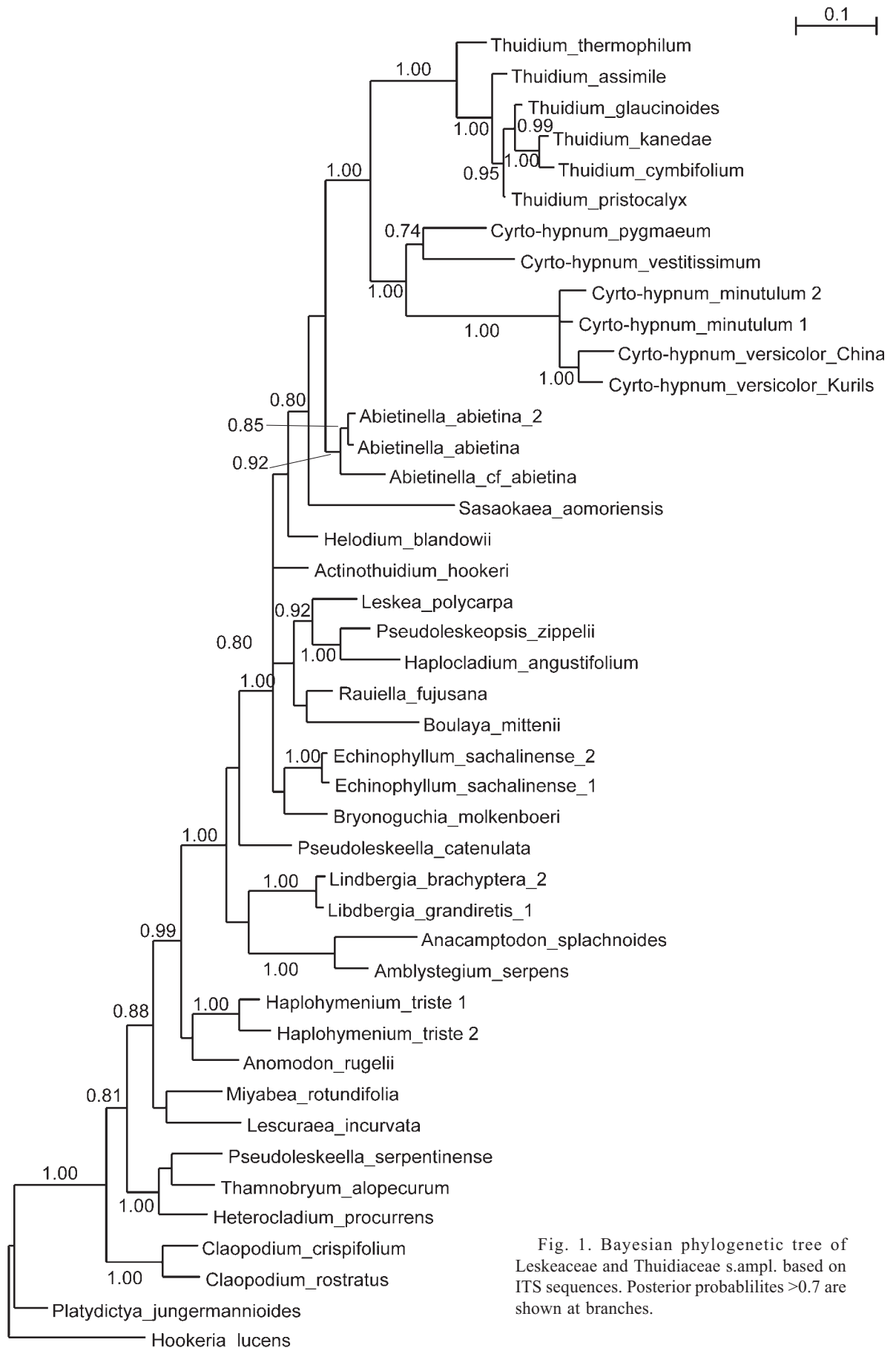


Fig. 1. Bayesian phylogenetic tree of Leskeaceae and Thuidiaceae s. ampl. based on ITS sequences. Posterior probabilities >0.7 are shown at branches.

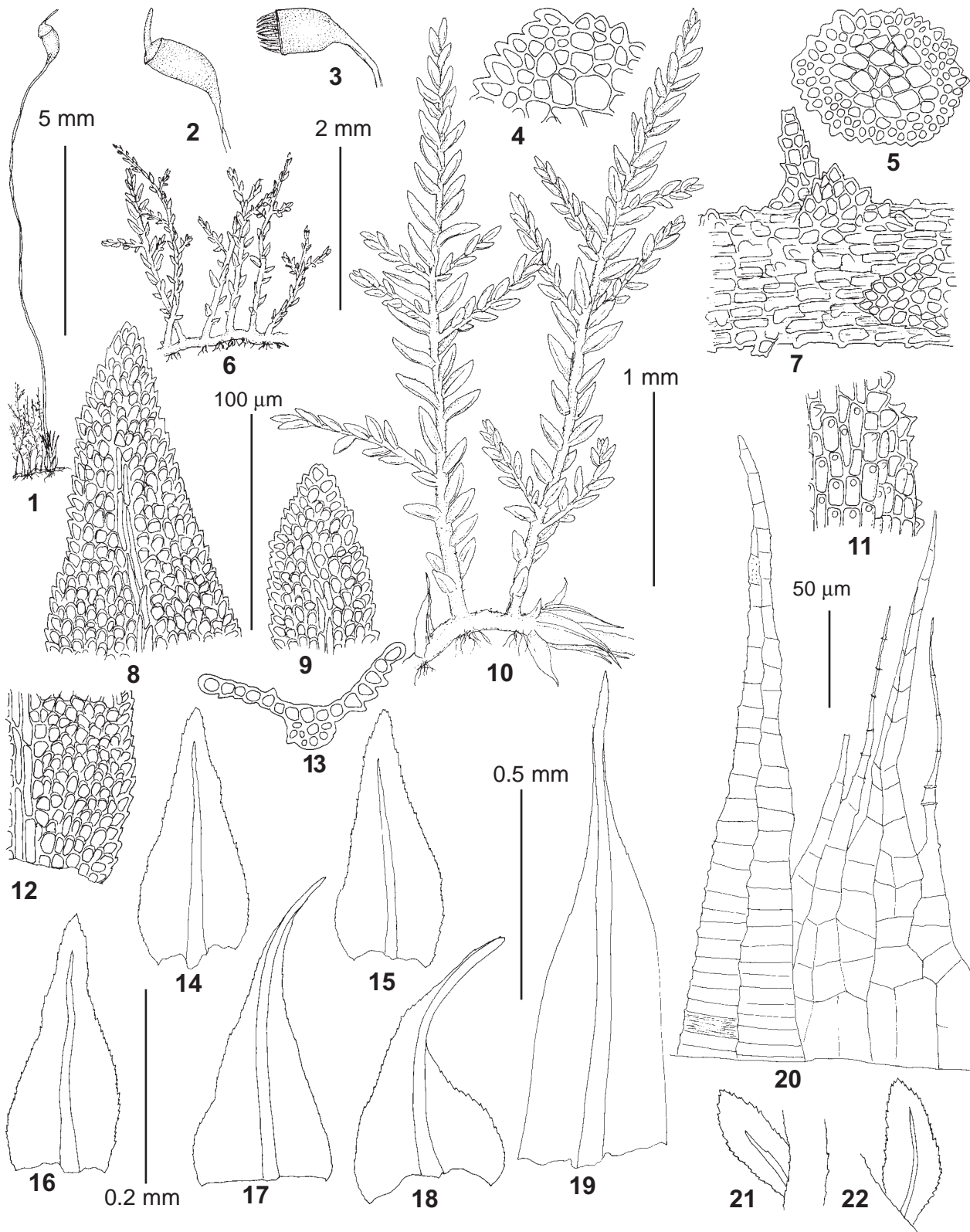


Fig. 2. *Cyrto-hypnum versicolor* (Hornsch. ex Müll. Hal.) W.R. Buck & H.A. Crum (from: Russia, Kunashir Island, *Koroteeva 15-3/2-7*, MHA). 1 – habit, dry; 2–3 – capsules; 4 – stem transverse section; 5 – primary branch transverse section; 6, 10 – habit, wet; 7 – part of primary branch with paraphyllia; 8 – cells of distal portion of branch leaf from primary branch; 9 – cells of distal portion of branch leaf from secondary branch; 11 – surface cells of stem; 12 – basal cells of primary branch leaf; 13 – primary branch leaf transverse section; 14–16 – primary branch leaves; 17–18 – stem leaves; 19 – perichaetial leaf; 20 – part of peristome; 21–22 – secondary branch leaves. Scale bars: 5 mm for 1; 2 mm for 2–3, 6; 1 mm for 10; 0.5 mm for 19; 0.2 mm for 14–18, 21–22; 50  $\mu$ m for 20; 100  $\mu$ m for 4–13.

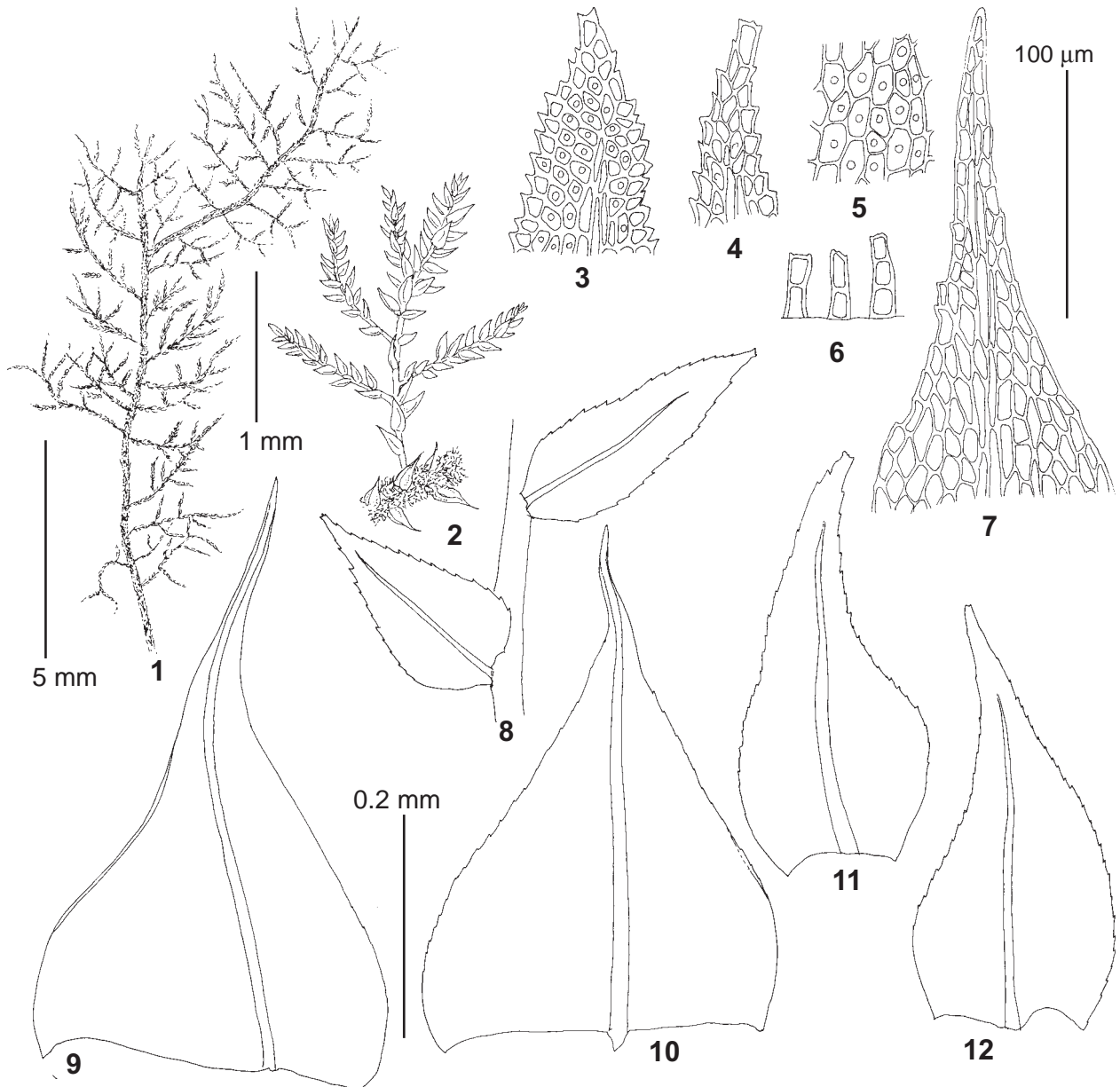


Fig. 3. *Cyrto-hypnum versicolor* (Hornsch. ex Müll. Hal.) W.R. Buck & H.A. Crum (from: Russia, Primorsky Territory, Suputinsky [Ussurijsky] Nature Reserve, *Vasiljeva & Ardeeva*, LE). 1 – habit, dry; 2 – habit, wet; 3 – upper part of secondary branch leaf; 4 – upper part of primary branch leaf; 5 – median cells of stem leaf; 7 – upper part of stem leaf; 8 – secondary branch leaves; 9–10 – stem leaves; 11–12 – primary branch leaves. Scale bars: 5 mm for 1; 1 mm for 2; 0.2 mm for 8–12; 100 µm for 3–7.

cal cells in most longer paraphyllia truncate and pluripapillose, occasionally acute and smooth or weakly papillose (in the smaller paraphyllia more often so); branch paraphyllia few to numerous, often unicellular and mammilliform; branchlets naked or with mammilliform paraphyllia” (Touw, 2001, page 76). Commenting variation, Touw (2001, page 79) added: “The branches are strongly paraphyllose in East Asia, whereas they are often naked or nearly so in tropical Asia and Hawaii. The paraphyllia diminish in size towards the the branch tips, and acute ones are most frequent there. Ultimately, they often consist of a single mammilliform cell”.

Thus, even the most detailed description of Touw says nothing about mammillose cortical cells, only about

mammilliform unicellular paraphyllia.

There is also an inconsistency in spore size: they were reported as 10–17 µm (Wu *et al.*, 2002), 7–15 µm (Touw, 2001), 7–12 µm (Fang & Koponen, 2001), or 16 µm (Watanabe, 1972).

Another discrepancy has been already noted by Fang & Koponen (2001): seta surface was described as papillose by Robinson (1968) and Gangulee (1978), but as smooth by Watanabe (1972) and Norris & Koponen (1985); the latter being correct, according to Fang & Koponen (2001).

The polymorphism of the species resulted in a numerous superfluously described species: Touw (2001) listed as many as 15. The most fascinating example is pro-

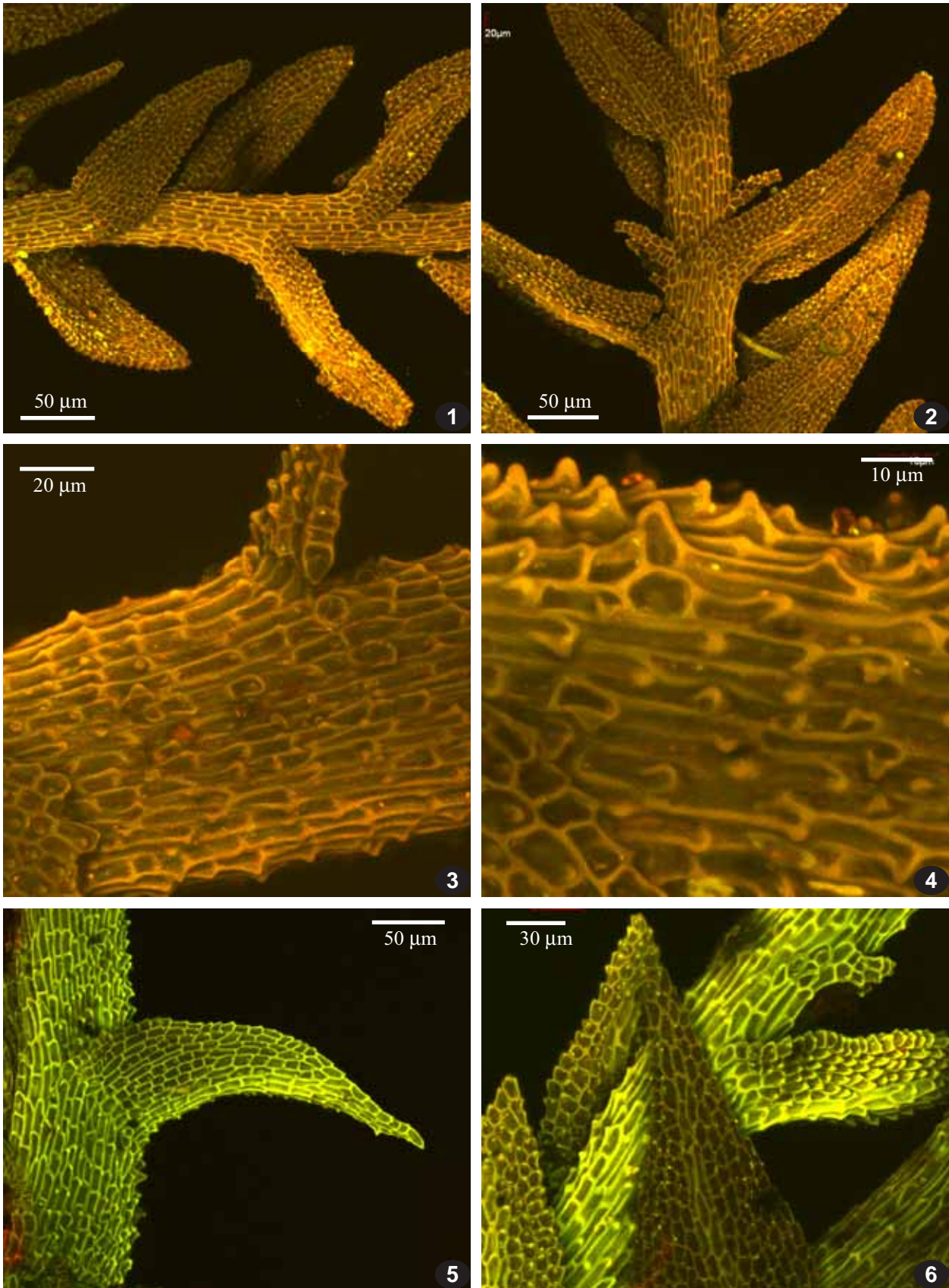


Fig. 4. *Cyrto-hypnum versicolor* (Kuril Islands), showing mammillae on branches (3–6) and branchlets (1–2), and mammillose branch and branchlet leaves, except almost smooth-celled most proximal branch leaves (5).

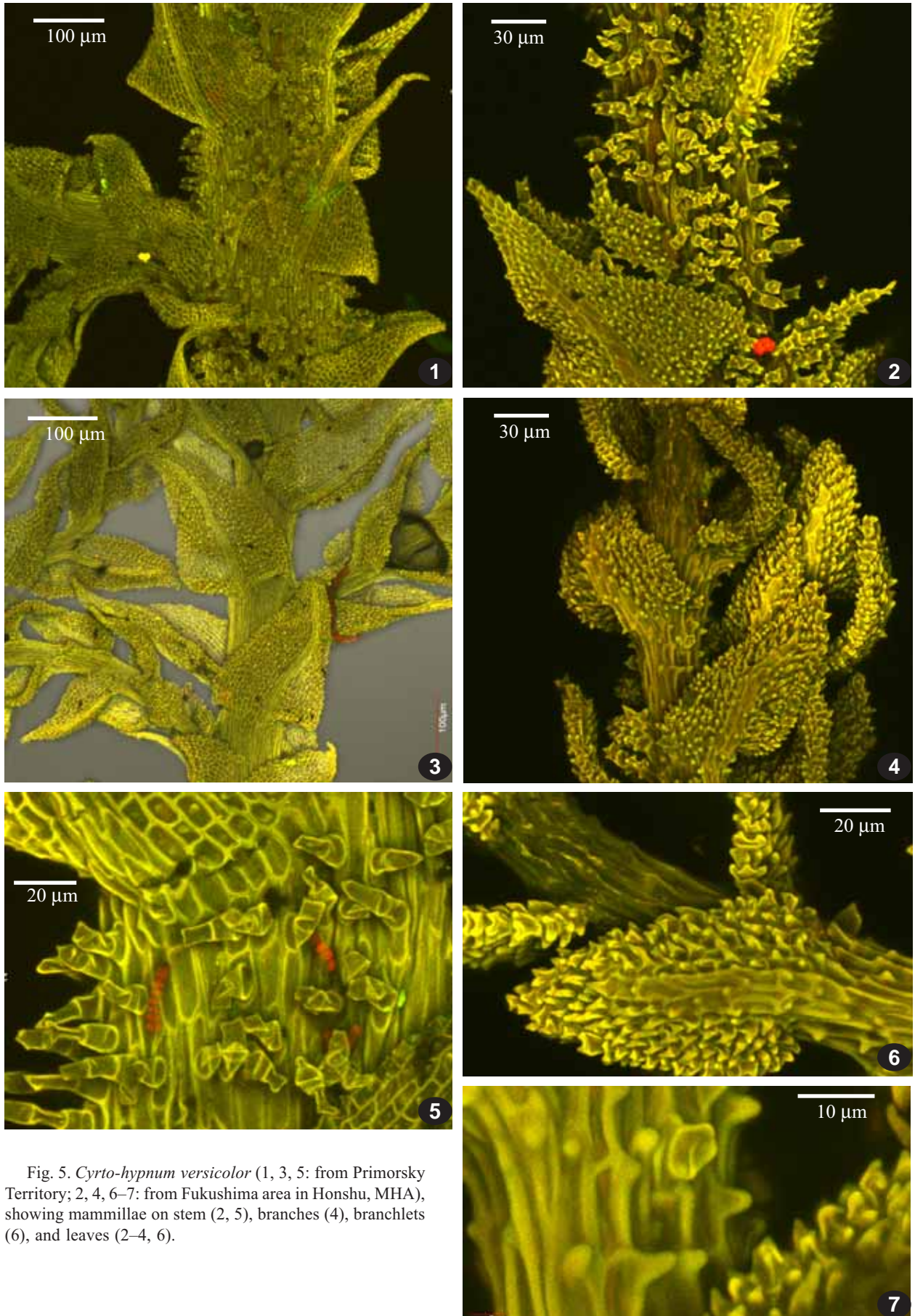


Fig. 5. *Cyrtio-hypnum versicolor* (1, 3, 5: from Primorsky Territory; 2, 4, 6–7: from Fukushima area in Honshu, MHA), showing mammillae on stem (2, 5), branches (4), branchlets (6), and leaves (2–4, 6).

vided by Fang & Koponen (2001), about Bescherelle who described four species new to science from two collections, and three of them appeared to be synonyms of *C. versicolor*.

Thus, our intension to describe an unknown Kurilian plant as a new species was stopped. At the same time, having two so dissimilar populations, and basing on only two specimens, we faced the difficulty with providing the description of *C. versicolor* for the moss flora of Russia, if based strictly on the Russian collections. We found no better solution than to separate characters of plants from two populations, showing states of some characters separately [in brackets, for the plants from Primorsky Territory] and {in braces, for the Kurilian plants}. This way of presentation can be useful in future, if additional morphological and/or molecular studies challenge the conspecificity of the mainland and Kurilian populations.

#### TAXONOMY

**Cyrto-hypnum versicolor** (Hornsch. ex Müll. Hal.)  
W.R. Buck & H.A. Crum Figs. 2–5

Plants [small] or {minute}, green to light green, not glossy, forming a tiny patches on [rocks, soil and rotten wood] or {on rock surfaces}. Stem [ca. 15 mm long] or {ca. 0.5 mm long}, [loosely attached to the substrate] or {creeping on substrate, tightly attached by numerous rhizoids}, central strand absent, bipinnately branched; primary branches [to 4 mm long, moderately spaced, arranged on both sides of stem] or {2.5–3.0 mm long, densely arranged on one side of stem and arising vertically from it}; secondary branches [1.0–1.2 mm long] or {0.5–0.8 mm long}; surface of stem and branches [smooth] or {mammilose}, [stem covered with dense paraphyllia, on primary branches paraphyllia sparse or absent] or {paraphyllia sparse on stem and primary branches}, paraphyllia small, 40–45 µm long, narrow and truncate at apex or foliose. Stem leaves [regularly arranged] or {sparse due to dense branching pattern}, [ca. 0.5 mm long and 0.3 mm wide] or {ca. 0.25 mm long and 0.15 mm wide}, triangular, with narrow acumen filled by costa; costa strong, gradually narrowing distally, excurrent. Primary branch leaves [0.3–0.35 mm long and 0.15 mm wide] or {0.21–0.27 mm long and 0.09–0.1 mm wide}, ovate-lanceolate, [acuminate, with obtuse apical cell] or {shortly acute or subobtuse at apex, with acute or obtuse apical cell}, shallowly keeled above; margins plane, densely serrate; costa single, gradually narrowing distally, ending well below apex, smooth, looking pale in contrast with dim lamina areolation; lamina cells uniform within the whole leaf, subquadrate and short rectangular, 5–8 µm long and 4–6 µm wide, moderately thick-walled, with single high papilla on dorsal leaf surface or, at places, on both surfaces. Secondary branch leaves ovate, 0.1–0.18 mm long, 0.05–0.06 mm wide, [acute] or [rounded at apex], with plane margins, serrate, lamina areolation like in primary branch leaves. Autoicous, sporophytes [not seen] or {numerous}. { Perichaetia large, whitish, perichaetial

leaves ca. 2.3 mm long, with oblong base and long triangular apex, not plicate, margins plane, finely serrulate at places, costa strong, narrowing distally, excurrent. Seta ca. 1 cm long, reddish-brown, smooth, straight or slightly bent shortly below the capsule. Capsules short, slightly curved, with ovate urn and short neck, urn ca. 0.9 mm long and 0.5 mm, operculum conic, with oblique beak ca. 0.55 mm long, annulus revoluble, consisting of two rows of inflated cells. Spores 7–9(–11) µm, smooth. Calyptra not seen}.

*Specimens examined:* **Primorsky Territory**, Slavyansky District, Suputinsky [Ussurijsky] Reserve, mixed conifer and broadleaved forest with hornbeam on north-faced slope, IX.1982, *Vasiljeva & Ardeeva s.n.* (LE). **Sakhalinskaya Province**, Kuril Islands, Kunashir Island, Mechnikova Mt. (43°58'27"N – 145°42'48"E), western foot of hill; forest with *Picea glehnii*, *P. yezoensis* and *Abies sachalinensis*, with dense undergrowth of *Sasa* sp., mesic, moderately dark; on shaded side of big boulder, 4.VIII.2015, *Koroteeva 15-3/2-7* (MHA).

**Distribution:** South Africa, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, China, Korea, Japan, Myanmar, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Hawaii (Touw, 2001).

Fang & Koponen (2001) confirmed this species in China only from the southern areas, expressing doubts for some recored from the north of the country. The locality in Primorsky Territory of Russia makes the occurrence of the species in northern China rather likely.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTA

The work was partly supported by RFBR 15-29-02647 (MI) and 13-05-00239 (TK) and by RNF 14-50-00029 for (AVF).

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Appendix 1. Specimen data for newly obtained sequences and GenBank accession numbers for all sequences used in the analyses. ITS // trnL-F are given, or if ITS1 and ITS2 have different accession numbers, then format is ITS1 ITS2 // trnL-F.

**New sequences:** *Abietinella cf. abietina* Russia, Amurskaya Province, Nora reserve, 4.VII.2010, *Bezgodov 116* (MHA): KX396258 // KX396249; *Bryonoguchia molkenboeri* Russia, Primorsky Territory, Chandolaz Mt., *Ignatov & Ignatova 13-1936* (MW): KX396260 // KX396251; *Cyrto-hypnum minutulum* 1 Bolivia, *Linneo et al. 513* (MO, MW): KX396262 // KX396253; *Cyrto-hypnum minutulum* 2 Russia, Urals, Perm Province, *Bezgodov & Ateeva 217* (MW): KX396265\_KX396256; *Cyrto-hypnum pygmaeum* Russia, Primorsky Territory, Chandolaz Mt., *Ignatov & Ignatova 06-2922* (MW): KX396263 // KX396254; *Cyrto-hypnum versicolor* Russia, Kunashir, *Koroteeva 15-3-/2-7* (MHA): KX396257 // KX396248; *Cyrto-hypnum vestitissimum* Russia, Primorsky Territory, Ussurijsky Reserve, *Ignatov 08-35* (MW): KX396261 // KX396252; *Echinophyllum sachalinense* 1 Russia, Primorsky Territory, Tadusha, *Ignatov et al. 13-1469* (MW): KX396259 // KX396250; *Echinophyllum sachalinense* 2 Russia, Khabarovsk Territory, *Ignatov & Ignatova 13-233* (MW): KX396264 // KX396255.

**Previously used and GenBank sequences:** *Abietinella abietina* AY009802 // AY009850; *Abietinella abietina* AJ417494 // –; *Actinothuidium hookeri* AY568547 // –; *Amblystegium serpens* AF168152 // AY009827; *Anacamptodon splachnoides* AY009810 // AY009816; *Anomodon rugelii* AJ277232\_AJ288420 // AF161116; *Boulaya mittenii* FM161080 // AM990347; *Claopodium rostratus* AY528899 // AY528896; *Claopodium crispifolium* AY695739\_AY695778 // AY683583; *Cyrto-hypnum versicolor* AY568545; *Haplocladium angustifolium* AY528884\_AY528885 // AY527129; *Haplohymenium triste* AY568551 // –; *Haplohymenium triste* FM161113 // –; *Helodium blandowii* AY009803 // AY009852; *Heterocladium procurrens* AY695782 // AY683587; *Hookeria lucens* AJ252137 // AF215906; *Lescurea incurvata* AY693661 // AY683595; *Leskea polycarpa* AY528889\_AF516151 // AY527134; *Lindbergia brachyptera* FM161151 // AY683571; *Lindbergia grandiretis* JF280965 // –; *Miyabaea rotundifolia* FM161155 // AM990412; *Platydictya jungermannii* AF168162 // AY009857; *Pseudoleskeella catenulata* AY695747 // AY683578; *Pseudoleskeella serpentiniense* AY695748\_AY695775 // AY683580; *Pseudoleskeopsis zippelii* FM161206 // –; *Rauiella fujisana* AY568546 // AY683600; *Sasaokea aomoriensis* JF280974 // JF280981; *Thamnobryum alopecuroides* FM161218 // –; *Thuidium philibertii* AJ416442 // –; *Thuidium cymbifolium* AY568542 // –; *Thuidium kanedae* Sakurai AY568541 // –; *Thuidium glaucinoides* AY568544 // –; *Thuidium pristocalyx* AY568540 // –; *Thuidium tamariscinum* AF023770 // –; *Thuidium thermophilum* EF368013 // EF368012.