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## REVIEW

Carmela Cortini PEDROTTI – **Flora dei muschi d’Italia: *Sphagnopsida*, *Andreaeopsida*, *Bryopsida*** (I parte). Antonio Delfino Editore, Roma – Milano, 2001.

The publication of any monograph in the field of Bryology represents an important editorial event at world wide level. This is the case of the first volume of “The Moss Flora of Italy” by Carmela Cortini Pedrotti, published in 2001. It is a monumental work (816 pages) that includes a part of the taxonomic units from *Musci*, according to an original system. For example, three subclasses are raised to the rank of class (*Sphagnopsida*, *Andreaeopsida* and *Bryopsida*) and the family *Hedwigiaceae* is reconsidered at the order level (*Hedwigiales*).

The taxonomic assignment is realised through brief descriptions of classes and, when appropriate, of subclasses and orders. The accent is put, however, on the description of species and genera. The morphologic traits are reported for genera, sections, species and sometimes, infraspecific taxa (subspecies, varieties) by classic dichotomic keys. A detailed description is made for each species, including its ecology and distribution (common, almost common, rather common, not so common, rather rare, rare and new for Italy). The indication of each taxon’s distribution is limited to the Italian territories (without specifying the corresponding geographic area).

A nice feature of this book is that original drawings, with all essential characters for taxon identification (green and dry habitus, leaves, transversal sections of the leaf, calypter, seta, capsule, operculum, peristome, propagules), are given for each species, subspecies and variety.

All these aspects represent the main features of a valuable, modern scientific masterpiece that is important not only for Italy, but also for Europe and the entire world.

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