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Abstract

The two works of Georg Bojung “Scato” Lantzius-Beninga on the anatomy of moss capsules, entitled “*Beiträge zur Kenntniss des innern Baues der ausgewachsenen Mooskapsel, insbesondere des Peristomes*”, of 1847 and 1850 have been largely forgotten within the body of bryological literature. These works contain fundamental information on the structure and anatomical composition of moss capsules, supported by detailed illustrations. Lantzius-Beninga examined species from *Sphagnum* L., the nematodontous mosses (*Polytrichum* Hedw. and *Tetraphis* Hedw.) and the arthrodontous mosses (*Aulacomnium* Schwägr., *Barbula* Hedw., *Bartramia* Hedw., *Ceratodon* Brid., *Dicranum* Hedw., *Fissidens* Hedw., *Funaria* Hedw., *Grimmia* Hedw., *Gymnostomum* Nees & Hornsch., *Hypnum* Hedw., *Orthotrichum* Hedw., *Phascum* Hedw., *Splachnum* Hedw., *Trichostomum* Bruch and *Weissia* Hedw.), as recognised at that time. In modern terms Lantzius-Beninga studied a total of 48 species from 38 genera, and illustrated 24 of them. He focused his observations on mature capsules and, in particular, the internal structure of the capsule and the capsule wall – peristome tooth junction in these mosses. His theory was that this particular region could hold important traits for use in species distinction in mosses. Lantzius-Beninga’s findings, and their potential contribution to interpretation of the evolution of peristomes, has yet to be widely tested across this group of plants. Herein his two works, and a later biography, all published in German, are transliterated with the aim of maintaining the spirit and charm of the original works while recounting as accurately as possible the wealth of information held within.

Key-words: Sporophytes – mosses – capsules – peristomes – Lantzius-Beninga

