



Inventory and Conservation of the Bryoflora of South-Western Patagonia



↑ Coprophilous moss
Tayloria magellanica

3-year DI project, Ref 13024, start Sept. 2004, cost £186,280

YEAR ONE PROGRESS

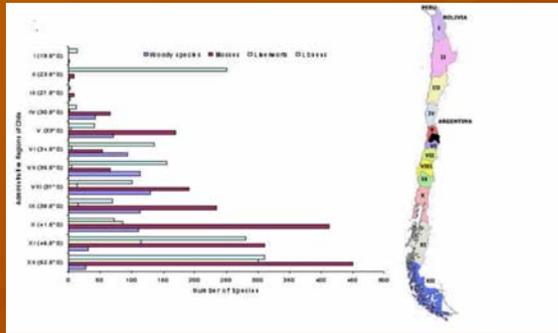


↑ Unidentified and possibly new species of *Sphagnum*

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The Magellanic Province of southern Chile is a “hotspot” for bryophyte diversity but is under threat from mining, fish-farming, logging, peat extraction and tourism. This Darwin Initiative project is conducting base-line survey and inventory of the bryoflora, capacitation of local biologists through infrastructure development and training, and conservation awareness-raising among local, regional and national stakeholders. Early successes include attraction of considerable “leveraged” funding, significant new findings relating to the phylogeny of liverworts and proclamation of the Cape Horn island group as a UNESCO “Biosphere Reserve”.



↑ Bryophytes greatly outnumber vascular plants in southern Chile’s bryological “hotspot”



↑ Year 1 expedition track (30 localities)



↑ Expedition vessel “Don José Pelegrin”



↑ Darwin Cordillera, Beagle Channel



↑ “Pelegrin” at Caleta San Martin (Cape Horn Islands) ↑ where Charles Darwin sheltered in HMS Beagle, 1832



↑ Sub-Antarctic Beech (*Nothofagus*) Forest, Isla Navarino, southern Chile



↑ Field bryology team collecting in “Magellanic Tundra”, Cape Horn Islands



↑ Prof Jeff Duckett and Dr Francisca Massardo collecting in Patagonian steppe near Punta Arenas

FIELD WORK →

YEAR ONE OUTPUTS ↓



↑ 3000 specimens collected



↑ Lab installed & equipped



↑ 16 Chileans field-trained



↑ 90 Chileans attend one-day conference



↑ Papers and books in preparation