

Editorial

Creu Casas (1913-2007) and Carmela Cortini Pedrotti (1931-2007) were two famous women involved in Spanish and Italian bryology. They have played each an important role in the development of the bryological studies in their countries and in the Mediterranean region.

Their carriers have striking similarities. Besides being the first botanist in Spain to break from tradition and focus her studies on a group other than flowering plants, Creu Casas was also the first woman in Spain to become a Full Professor of Botany (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona); she devoted her studies to Spanish mosses. Proud of having been the first woman in Italy to earn a degree of Forestry (1966), Carmela Cortini was Professor of Botany at Camerino where she developed her scientific work on Italian mosses. The two women lead the bryology in their respective countries to the valuable current level. Both have produced especially useful handbooks of mosses of the Iberian Peninsula and Italy respectively, and have let many active students who are called to continue their excellent work.

So, it was natural for our Journal to devote a special issue to their memory. This issue is introduced by the biographies of Creu Casas (by Montserrat Brugués) and of Carmela Cortini Pedrotti (by Michele Aleffi), and by the last work of C. Casas (with M. Brugués, R.M. Cros, E. Ruiz and A. Barron) on the mosses of the Spanish central Pyrenees. It also includes 13 contributions specially written by their Spanish and Italian students or friends. These papers deal with various topics on Spanish and Italian bryophytes.

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Denis Lamy
Editor in Chief