

Workshop 2

Poster presentation

Email to Margaret Ramsay [m.ramsay@rbgkew.org.uk]

Planta Europa Poster Abstract
(139 words)

***Ex-situ* Conservation of Bryophytes**

Jennifer K. Rowntree, **Margaret M. Ramsay**

Micropropagation Unit, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB

j.rowntree@kew.org, m.ramsay@kew.org

A pilot project was set up to investigate the potential of *ex-situ* methods for the conservation of bryophytes by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the British statutory conservation agencies (English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and Countryside Council for Wales) in August 2000. Successful protocols have been established for the initiation of plants collected from their natural habitats into sterile culture from sporophytes, gemmae and leafy gametophores. Methods have also been established for the long-term storage of explants in liquid nitrogen (cryopreservation). The existing collection incorporates a number of British Red List and BAP species, and includes some European Red List taxa. Current work focuses on expanding the number of species in the collection, both in culture and in cryo-storage. The development of protocols for the weaning and reintroduction of bryophytes after cryopreservation is underway and a priority of the project.