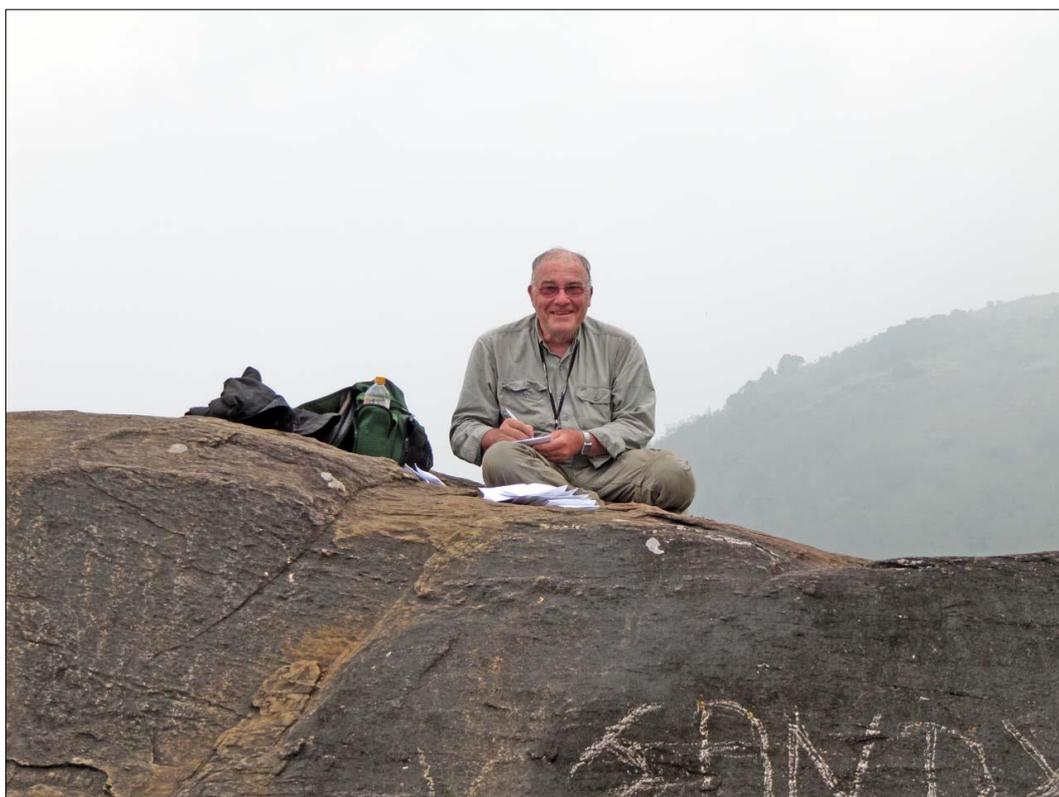

Personal Memories to Jan-Peter Frahm (1945 – 2014)

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The author summarizes his very own memories to Jan-Peter Frahm reaching from the late 1980s until today. It also provides an insight why *Frahmia*, as a new bryological online journal was created.



Picture 1: Bryo-lichenological expedition to the Western Ghats in Coorg, Karnataka, Southern India, November 2012

There was again one major insight when my collaboration with Jan-Peter became much closer since 2012 – even if the results of once studies might not reach perfection they are still valuable to publish. A lot of useful bryological work is just lost because people are scared to publish, being afraid of peer reviews or being awed by the scientific establishment. To continue with this approach and attitude “Frahmia” was established. The journal should provide the means to publish research results easily and make discoveries easily accessible to the bryologist community.

Personally I got to know Prof. Jan-Peter Frahm as many of the other younger bryologist through his “Moosflora” (FRAHM & FREY 1983) that was first published in 1983. It became my standard work while starting my bryological activities in 1986 in the area north to Chemnitz, a city where Hedwig used to work in the late 18th century.

Due to its intensive use my “Moosflora” got meanwhile a lot of water stains, the book cover got broken, even the print on the title page faded away. Jan-Peter recognized this while visiting me in India. Surprisingly I got a parcel a few weeks later from him containing a new, 3rd edition of his “Moosflora”.

In the 1990s I only met Jan-Peter during official meetings, e.g. those of the BLAM (Bryologisch-lichenologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Mitteleuropa) but there was an occasional contact via email. He was always interested in new technologies and tried to use the potential of IT and the Internet in particular for bryological topics. Studying computer science myself made this approach really interesting for me.



Looking back I'm still surprised how Jan-Peter came up with quite genuine ideas. I can remember a workshop about tropical bryophytes in Helsinki in 1998. He took the participants to the botanical garden of Helsinki, picked a nice, tall tree (some *Acer* spec. if I remember correctly) and thought the participants how to climb it. He used to use the method to get closer to the bryophytes in the canopy of trees. During this workshop his close relation to students and his dedication to bryology became very apparent. Not just his lectures but also a joint sauna visit, jumping into a frozen lake to cool down and the convivial evenings showed his very sociable and supporting nature.

Due to my assignments abroad there were not too many contacts to Jan-Peter until I was transferred to Bangalore. It changed when I brought back *Campylopus fragilis* subsp. *goughii* (Mitt.) J.-P. Frahm from my first bryological trip to the Western Ghats. He confirmed the identification and got excited to visit the area himself. During previous years he had done several trips together with Dr. Felix Schumm, a German lichenologist, to explore the bryophyte and lichen flora of the Seychelles, the Dominican Republic and Reunion. Having them come to India was exciting for me as well. Not just seeing Jan-Peter again but also seeing Felix with whom I worked intensively in Stuttgart and with whom I went for botanical expeditions to the Philippines made me really excited.

Leaving my IT job behind and spending the days with them in the Western Ghats was really fun. As expected it led to some publications about the bryophytes of this area and also the description of a new species *Phycolepidozia indica* GRADST., FRAHM & U. SCHWARZ.

What I was not aware till then was Jan-Peters interest in cooking. He really enjoyed the Indian cuisine and spent a lot of time shopping to buy Indian spices and masala, on which occasion Felix almost got lost. Besides collecting mosses in Coorg he also collected fresh green pepper with the

intention to create a tasty green pepper sauce for his friends in Germany. Interestingly Jan-Peter privately published a book with 10000 cooking ideas (FRAHM 2007). Out of curiosity and to gain his own experience, as it is with all true explorers, he tried the beetle nuts along the way to Coorg disappointingly without having the expected stimulating effect.

In Coorg I recognized that Jan-Peter was always writing. He got up in the morning and started to summarize the events of the previous day. He also prepared the outline of the publications about the bryophyte of the area. It became quite obvious to me how he was able to publish results frequently.

Not just the collection during the day but also the evenings with these 2 botanists brought back a lot of good memories. Knowing them for more than 20 years, listening to the interesting and sometimes intimate stories about the bryological community and even having a couple of drinks together, what I very rarely do, made this time really special.

It was actually this visit that encouraged me to intensify my bryological studies again. Being a bit disconnected from bryological hubs by sitting in Bangalore makes it sometimes challenging. Jan-Peter's encouragement and support but also his autobiographical sketch "A life with Mosses" (FRAHM 2009) was and is a constant source of motivation.

That's why it was in particular very saddened when I learned from Felix about the death of Jan-Peter. I was actually expecting them just a few days later for a second visit to India. We already did all the arrangements for a botanical expedition to the North Eastern Himalaya visiting Darjeeling and Sikkim.

I'm convinced that I act in the spirit of Jan-Peter by establishing *Frahmia* as a bryological online journal. It should not just commemorate Jan-Peter as a strong and dedicated protagonist of bryology it should also continue his tradition to provide the means to publish the results of bryological studies.

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