

1 INTRODUCTION

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from the flora. Because the relevant data have been widely scattered in the literature and not always easily accessible, we do feel that it is appropriate to publish a revised list at the present time, especially because much reconsideration of generic and familial limits is taking place.

Thus, the present work is an attempt to meet the long felt need for a standard work on the nomenclature and distribution of Polish mosses. The publication of the catalogue is also justified by the fact that modern checklists or catalogues of mosses are in practice available for almost all adjacent countries in Central Europe, including Germany (Duell & Meinunger 1989; Duell 1994*a, b*; Koperski *et al.* 2000), Austria (Grims 1999), the Czech Republic (Vaňha 1997, 1998; Kučera & Vaňha 2003), Slovakia (Kubinská & Janovičová 1996, 1998), Romania (Mohan 1993), the Ukraine (Virchenko 2000, 2001), Lithuania (Jukoniene 2002), Estonia (Ingerpuu *et al.* 1994), Sweden (Söderström *et al.* 1992; Söderström & Hedenäs 1994), and Norway (Friyvoll *et al.* 1995). In addition, a checklist of the mosses of the former Soviet Union has been published (Ignatov & Afonina 1992), and a somewhat older but still very useful catalogue of Finnish mosses is available (Koponen *et al.* 1977). It is worth mentioning that modern checklists of mosses are available for most