

# Theodor Carl Julius Herzog (1880 – 1961)

Born on 7 July 1880 in Freiburg in Breisgau, a university city in southwest Germany, Theodor Herzog developed an early interest in the flora, especially the mosses, of the wooded hills and peaks of the surrounding Southern Black Forest. He published his first work on bryophytes at the age of eighteen. Going on to study natural sciences at the universities of Freiburg, Zurich and then Munich, he gained his doctorate from the latter in 1903 as a student of botanist Ludwig Radlkofer (1829–1927).

During his subsequent years in Zurich, Herzog qualified as a teacher under the Swiss botanist Carl Joseph Schröter (1855–1939), a pioneer in the fields of phytogeography and phytosociology, and made extensive collecting trips to Sardinia (1904 and 1906), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1905 and 1908, and Bolivia (1907–08 and 1910–12). Returning to Germany in 1914, initially as an unsalaried lecturer (*privatdozent*) at Munich, he married Gertrud Locherer in Freiburg, and with her had three children. From 1915 to 1918 he served in World War I. In 1920 he was appointed associate professor of botany at Munich, and in 1925 he succeeded Wilhelm Delmer at the University of Jena in Switzerland, where he remained until 1948.

Herzog was a leading authority on mosses, publishing works on the specimens he found in his homeland and on his travels, and based on his thirty years of experience, his *Geographie der Moose* in 1926. He also dealt with the systematics and phytogeography of flowering plants, especially those of his collections from South America, many of which are named after him. As his career progressed he focused on the classification of liverworts and was sent specimens from all over the world for identification. The encouragement and help he gave to New Zealand botanist Amy Hodgson in her study of liverworts was acknowledged in 1956 in the name of the small Australasian species *Telaranea herzogii*.

At the turn of the century Herzog pioneered skiing in the Black Forest and in the Alps, and made first climbs of several high peaks in Bolivia. He became a glider pilot in his 55th year. In his later years he donated his extensive herbarium and rich bryology library to the University of Jena, and on 6 May 1961 he died in Jena a few weeks short of his 81st birthday.



Ernst Haeckel 'Hepaticae' [liverworts] (1904)

## *Telaranea herzogii*

*Telaranea* (Latin *tala* 'woven cloth', 'cobweb') contains species of liverworts rather similar to *Lepidozia*, but the stems are usually weaker and the plants often prostrate and smaller. *Telaranea herzogii*, an Australasian species, is a tiny leafy liverwort of damp shaded situations such as overhanging stream banks, or among other bryophytes in boggy areas. It is hardly visible to the naked eye, as the stems are very slender, and the leaves (0.5 mm long) consist only of two slender spikes. It often straggles through other mosses and liverworts and is usually found when examining another specimen under a microscope. However, once known, it can be seen with a hand lens as the hyaline stems and leaves glisten in good light.