SUMMARY

1. Mosses form an important group of plants. Since no detailed enumeration of mosses of Eastern Ghats of India has so far been done, this work has been taken up to enlist the mosses of Shervaroys, an important hill range in Tamil Nadu Eastern Ghats.

2. A total number of 69 species under 41 genera, covering 21 families have been recorded from this area. A detailed description accompanied by illustrations of all these species have been provided. Keys to the identification of taxa have been given.

3. 27 species are newly recorded for South India in this area*

4. 12 of the 20 different phytogeographical elements are reported in the moss flora of Shervaroys. Of these, the endemic*** and cosmopolitan elements are the most dominant. A total of 16 endemic and 21 cosmopolitan species are found.

5. The study also revels that mosses are found to be useful as good indicators of the degraded habitats of Shervaroys. 28 species are found to be exclusive to undisturbed ecosystems of the semi-evergreen forest type, while 5 species are indicators of degraded ecosystems. About 36 species of mosses adapt themselves ecologically so as to survive both in undegraded and degraded of ecosystems.

* Number of species
** Number of genera
*** Number of families