



## Clifford Charles Townsend (1926 – 2018)



Cliff Townsend was born in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire on 12 May 1926 and was educated at Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham. He left school in

1943, becoming a Laboratory Assistant with the then Cheltenham & District Gas Company. He qualified as a chartered gas engineer in 1951 through a day-

release scheme at the North Gloucestershire and City of Gloucester Technical College. He married Dorothy (Dot) Moss in June 1950 at Cambray Baptist Church, Cheltenham, their mutual church. He jocularly referred to her as *Mnium punctatum* (Dot Moss) and credited her with the inspiration to take up bryology, his spare-time and retirement interest.

Cliff was promoted to Junior Technical Assistant at Cheltenham, moved to Redditch in 1952 as Technical Assistant with the West Midlands Gas Board and then to Cambridge in 1954 as Senior Technical Assistant with the Eastern Gas Board. Pressure of work with increasing seniority and especially anticipated future promotion, reduced the time available for botany, and he resolved to try and make botany his career.

During the war, part of the Kew Herbarium was evacuated to Daglingworth Rectory, near Cirencester, and through local natural history society circles, Cliff became acquainted with Kew stalwarts such as Edgar Milne-Redhead, Ernest Nelmes and, especially, Kenneth Airy Shaw, with whom he and other local young men shared entomological as well as botanical interests. A founder member of the Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society (then the Cheltenham & District Naturalists' Society) in 1948, he was elected to the first committee and served as first botanical section leader; made an honorary member on leaving Cheltenham. During the latter part of the war (1943–1945) he was recruited to the South Crofty tin mine, Camborne, Cornwall, spending most of his spare time pursuing Cornish botany and beetles. Whilst living in Cambridge he studied for three years to become an accredited Baptist lay preacher, passing with distinction in 1956.

In November 1959, Cliff applied for a job at Kew and was appointed as an Experimental Officer, rising to Principal Scientific Officer in 1984 with charge of the Oriental/North African section. With the change-over at Kew from a geographical to a systematic basis of work, he was appointed Assistant Keeper in Wing B of the Herbarium.

Following the introductory volume of the *Flora of Iraq*, a joint project between Kew (which provided the expertise) and the Iraqi Government (which provided finance and collaborated in other ways), Cliff took over as general editor and contributed many taxonomic sections, including the Leguminosae.

When this project came to an end, Cliff began working on the Amaranthaceae and Apiaceae, particularly in Africa. His first expedition was the second Mountfort expedition to Jordan in 1965, as botanist in a team under the noted ornithologist Guy Mountfort, assessing the fauna and flora for the projected first Arab National Park, at Azraq in eastern Jordan.

In 1973 he was recruited by the Smithsonian Institution of Washington to write up the Amaranthaceae, Proteaceae and Thymelaeaceae for

the *Revised Handbook Flora of Ceylon* and spent about three months in India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, later also writing up the Amaranthaceae for the *Flora of West Pakistan*. Four Kew expeditions took place in connection with the accounts of the Amaranthaceae and Apiaceae for *Flora of Tropical East Africa* and the latter family for *Flora Zambesiaca*. The first, and longest, lasted for three months in 1975. He was accompanied chiefly by Sheila Hooper of Kew and ranged through northern Zambia to the Kundelungu Plateau of Zaire, through southern and eastern Tanzania, finishing at Nairobi. The second, in 1977, was spent entirely in Kenya and lasted for about seven weeks. During the first month Cliff was again accompanied by Sheila Hooper, with Dot joining them for the remaining three weeks. Sheila was again his co-worker in 1980 for an expedition mostly spent in western and central Tanzania in the company of Leonard Mwasumbi of the University of Dar es Salaam University, the final part of the trip again in Kenya. This lasted for just over a month. The final journey was for five weeks in 1985, again with Dot as travelling companion. This was spent almost entirely in the Kenya highlands: Mount Kenya, Mount Elgon, the Aberdare Mountains and the Cherangani Hills. In all his expeditions, Cliff collected not only phanerogams, but mosses, destined to be worked on in his spare time and retirement. He made numerous official study visits to herbaria abroad in connection with his work, including those at Bratislava, Florence, Paris, Prague, St Petersburg, Tashkent, Tbilisi and Vienna.

Cliff will be fondly remembered by his colleagues for his kindness, unfailing good humour and seemingly inexhaustible supply of puns. He retired from Kew in 1986 but, with Dot, he continued to travel, botanising and birding always on the agenda. Destinations ranged from Ecuador to Nepal and Iceland to Patagonia. He acted as botanical guide lecturer on many prestigious Swan Hellenic Mediterranean cruises in the 1960s and 1970s, and led botanical trips for specialist travel companies, including two pony treks to Kashmir, usually accompanied by Dot. On one trip to Uzbekistan, the news broke of the Chernobyl disaster, and Cliff and Dot found themselves in Samarkand with the radioactive cloud drifting towards the UK and themselves well to the east.

Osteo-arthritis affected Cliff early and he had his first hip replacement before the age of 60. Both hips were replaced but cervical spondylosis gave him neck pain which rendered long periods at the microscope impossible, thus undermining his hope of making systematic revisions of certain moss genera in retirement. When moss work became impossible, Cliff donated his moss herbarium to the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. He then turned his hand to the verification of herbarium voucher specimens for the

Millennium Seed Bank, carrying out this vital task with great skill.

Cliff and Dot enjoyed 56 very happy years together; Dot passed away in 2006. In 2015, Cliff's failing health meant a move to a care home in Hampton Hill, where he celebrated his 90th birthday in 2016. Following severe pneumonia, he died there peacefully on 8 January 2018, aged 91. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, three grand-daughters and five great-grandchildren.

B. Townsend, P. J. Cribb & D. A. Simpson

### List of new taxa published by C. C. Townsend

- Achyranthes ancistrophora* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Achyropsis filifolia* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Achyropsis gracilis* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Alternanthera dendrotricha* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Amaranthus congestus* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Astragalus acetabulosus* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus azaqensis* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus baijensis* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus chionobiiformis* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus curvirostris* Boiss. subsp. *psilocarpus* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus gillettii* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus hauarensis* Boiss. var. *glaber* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus helgurdensis* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus leiophyllus* Freyn & Bornm. var. *nigropedunculatus* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus octopus* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus porphyrodon* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus pseudofragrans* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus pushtashanicus* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus rawianus* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Astragalus tawilicus* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Atractylis mutica* C.C.Towns. (Compositae)  
*Bunium verruculosum* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Campylopodiella dorotheae* C.C.Towns. (Dicranaceae)  
*Campylopus filiformis* J.-P.Frahm & C.C.Towns. (Dicranaceae)  
*Celosia bakeri* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Celosia benguellensis* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Celosia brevispicata* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Celosia expansifila* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Celosia fadenorum* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Celosia globosa* Schinz var. *porphyrostachya* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Celosia globosa* Schinz var. *spicata* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Celosia isertii* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Celosia nervosa* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Celosia patentiloba* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Celosia richardsiae* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Centemopsis sordida* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Chesneya vesiculifera* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Cryptotaenia calycina* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Cryptotaenia calycina* C.C.Towns. var. *dissecta* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Cryptotaenia polygama* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Cyathula mollis* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Dasysphaera breviflora* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Dasysphaera hyposericea* (Chiov.) C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Diaphanodon laevivittatus* Zanten & C.C.Towns. (Trachypodaceae)  
*Digera muricata* Mart. subsp. *trinervis* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Digera muricata* Mart. var. *macroptera* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Digera muricata* Mart. var. *patentipilosa* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Echinops fraudator* C.C.Towns. (Compositae)  
*Ephemerum perminutum* C.C.Towns. (Ephemeraceae)  
*Ergocarpon* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Eriostylos* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Eryngium hainesii* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Fabrisinapis* C.C.Towns. (Brassicaceae)  
*Fabrisinapis fruticosus* C.C.Towns. (Brassicaceae)  
*Fadenia* Aellen & C.C.Towns. (Chenopodiaceae)  
*Fadenia zygophylloides* Aellen & C.C.Towns. (Chenopodiaceae)  
*Ferula rutbaensis* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Ferula sphenobasis* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Ferulago abbreviata* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Gomphrena chrestoides* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Gomphrena chrestoides* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Gomphrena trinervosa* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Gomphrena trinervosa* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Grimmia meteorae* C.C.Towns. (Grimmiaceae)  
*Haplophyllum dasygynum* C.C.Towns. (Rutaceae)  
*Haplophyllum laeviusculum* C.C.Towns. (Rutaceae)  
*Haplophyllum laristanicum* C.C.Towns. (Rutaceae)  
*Haplophyllum linifolium* subsp. *africanum* C.C.Towns. (Rutaceae)  
*Haplophyllum lissonotum* C.C.Towns. (Rutaceae)  
*Haplophyllum luteoversicolor* C.C.Towns. (Rutaceae)  
*Haplophyllum poorei* C.C.Towns. (Rutaceae)  
*Haplophyllum rechingeri* C.C.Towns. (Rutaceae)  
*Haplophyllum rubro-tinctum* C.C.Towns. (Rutaceae)  
*Heracleum rawianum* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Herniaria ericifolia* C.C.Towns. (Illecebraceae)  
*Heteromorpha papillosa* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Hydrocotyle mannii* Hook.f. var. *acutiloba* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Hyoscyamus longepedunculatus* C.C.Towns. (Solanaceae)  
*Lefebvrea droopii* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Mechowia redactifolia* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Nelsia tropidogyna* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)

*Octoblepharum brevisetum* C.C.Towns. (Octoblepharaceae)  
*Oligotrichum glaciale* C.C.Towns. (Polytrichaceae)  
*Omegandra* G.J.Leach & C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Omegandra kanisii* G.J.Leach & C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Onobrychis carduchorum* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)  
*Onopordum sarrafii* C.C.Towns. (Compositae)  
*Pandiaka confusa* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Peucedanum articulatum* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Peucedanum dispersum* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Peucedanum friesiorum* H.Wolff var. *bipinnatum* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Peucedanum harmsianum* H.Wolff subsp. *australe* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Peucedanum inaccessum* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Peucedanum oblongisetum* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Peucedanum stenospermum* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Peucedanum tenue* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Peucedanum trisectum* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pictus* C.C.Towns. (Amblystegiaceae)  
*Pictus scoticus* C.C.Towns. (Amblystegiaceae)  
*Pimpinella alismatifolia* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pimpinella buchananii* H.Wolff subsp. *septentrionalis* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pimpinella buchananii* H.Wolff var. *longistyla* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pimpinella caffra* D.Dietr. subsp. *conopodioides* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pimpinella duridentata* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pimpinella mulanjensis* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pimpinella paludosa* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pimpinella richardsiae* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pimpinella rigidistyla* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pimpinella rigidiuscula* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pimpinella woodii* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Pleuropterantha thulinii* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Polygala kurdica* C.C.Towns. (Polygalaceae)  
*Polyrhabda* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Polyrhabda atriplicifolia* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Pseudoplantago bisteriliflora* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Psilotrichopsis* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Psilotrichum albipilosum* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Psilotrichum aphyllum* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Psilotrichum fallax* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Psilotrichum lanatum* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Psilotrichum leptostachys* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Psilotrichum stenanthum* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Psilotrichum suffruticosum* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Psilotrichum virgatum* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)

*Psilotrichum vollesenii* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Pupalia lappacea* (L.) Juss. var. *argyrophylla* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Pupalia lappacea* (L.) Juss. var. *glabrescens* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Ranunculus neocuneatus* C.C.Towns. (Ranunculaceae)  
*Rosifax* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Rosifax sabuletorum* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Seseli scopulorum* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Suaeda* sect. *Immersa* C.C.Towns. (Chenopodiaceae)  
*Syrhophodon pulcher* W.D.Reese, H.Akiyama & C.C.Towns. (Calymeraceae)  
*Torilis stenocarpa* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Tortella smithii* C.C.Towns. (Pottiaceae)  
*Tortula porphyreoneura* (Müll.Hal.) C.C.Towns. (Pottiaceae)  
*Tortula sabiniae* C.C.Towns. (Pottiaceae)  
*Trachyspermum aethusifolium* Chiov. var. *verruculosum* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Trachyspermum arabiae-felicis* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Trichostomopsis aaronis* (Lorentz) S.Agnew & C.C.Towns. (Pottiaceae)  
*Trichostomopsis haussknechtii* (Jur. & Milde) S.Agnew & C.C.Towns. (Pottiaceae)  
*Trichurus* C.C.Towns. (Amaranthaceae)  
*Turgenia lisaeoides* C.C.Towns. (Apiaceae)  
*Vicia blakelockiana* C.C.Towns. (Leguminosae)

### Eponymous epithets

*Fissidens townsendianus* Pursell (Fissidentaceae)  
*Hypnum cupressiforme* Hedw. var. *townsendii* Ando (Hypnaceae)  
*Pfaffia townsendii* Pedersen (Amaranthaceae)  
*Taxiphyllum townsendii* Ochyra & Ireland (Hypnaceae)  
*Zambiacris townsendii* Johnsen (Orthoptera)

### List of publications by C. C. Townsend

#### 1944

Townsend, C. C. (1944). *Cychnus rostratus* L. (Col., Carabidae) discharging a stream of liquid. *Entomol. Monthly Mag.* 80: 293.

#### 1945

Townsend, C. C. (1945). The coleopterous and heteropterous fauna of a dry carbon tip. *Entomol. Monthly Mag.* 81: 166 – 168.

#### 1946

Townsend, C. C. (1946). Cornish coleoptera in 1945. *Entomol. Monthly Mag.* 82: 244 – 245.  
 Townsend, C. C. (1946). Insects observed in a Cornish tin mine. *Entomol. Monthly Mag.* 82: 197 – 198.

- 1947**  
Townsend, C. C. (1947) A list of the Carabidae of Gloucestershire. *Proc. Cotteswold Nat. Field Club* 29: 149 – 158.
- 1948**  
Townsend, C. C. (1948). *Astenus melanurus* Küst. (Col. Staphylinidae) new to Britain. *Entomol. Monthly Mag.* 84: 183.  
Townsend, C. C. (1948). The Staphylinidae and Pselaphidae of Gloucestershire. *Proc. Cotteswold Nat. Field Club* 50: 52 – 62.
- 1952**  
Townsend, C. C. (1952). Old records (present status of certain rare Gloucestershire plants). *Proc. Cotteswold Nat. Field. Club* 30: 252 – 253.
- 1961**  
Townsend, C. C. (1961). *Geranium microphyllum* Hook.f. as an adventive plant in Britain. *Watsonia* 5: 43 – 44.
- 1962**  
Townsend, C. C. (1962). A note on *Scirpus subulatus* Vahl. *Kew Bull.* 15: 415 – 417.  
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- 1963**  
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- 1964**  
Townsend, C. C. (1964). More on the introduced Bordon and Alderney Geraniums. *Proc. Bot. Soc. Brit. Is.* 5: 224 – 226.  
Townsend, C. C. (1964). Notes on the Umbelliferae of Iraq: 1. *Kew Bull.* 17: 427 – 439.  
Townsend, C. C. (1964). Notes on the Umbelliferae of Iraq: 2. *Kew Bull.* 19: 69 – 75.  
Townsend, C. C. (1964 – 1965). Bryophytes from Cyprus. *Rev. Bryol. Lichenol.* 33: 484 – 493.
- 1965**  
Townsend, C. C. (1965). *Echinops commutatus* Jur. and *Centaurea eriophora* L. *Proc. Bot. Soc. Brit. Is.* 6: 122 – 123.  
Townsend, C. C. (1965). A new species of *Hyoscyamus* from Iraq. *Kew Bull.* 19: 417 – 418.
- 1966**  
Townsend, C. C. (1966). Bryophytes from Azraq National Park, Jordan. *Trans. Brit. Bryol. Soc.* 5: 136 – 141.  
Townsend, C. C. (1966). List of flowering plants and gymnosperms so far recorded from the Azraq Desert National Park, Jordan. In: J. H. Hemsley & M. George, *International Biological Programme, Azraq Desert National Park, Jordan, Draft Management Plan*.  
Townsend, C. C. (1966). Rutaceae. In: K. H. Rechinger (ed.), *Flora Iranica* 36: 1 – 21. Akademische Druck- u. Verlagsanstalt, Graz.  
Townsend, C. C. (1966). Mosses from Iran and Afghanistan. *Trans. Brit. Bryol. Soc.* 5: 131 – 135.  
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Townsend, C. C. (1966). A new *Herniaria* L. (Illecebraceae) from Libya. *Kew Bull.* 20: 427 – 428.
- 1967**  
Townsend, C. C. (1967). Rutaceae. In: P. H. Davis (ed.), *Flora of Turkey* 2: 495 – 508. Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh.  
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- 1968**  
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Townsend, C. C. (1968). Rutaceae. In: T. G. Tutin *et al.* (eds), *Flora Europaea* 2: 227 – 230. Cambridge.  
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- 1969**  
Townsend, C. C. (1969). Contributions to the bryophyte flora of Turkey: VII. *Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinburgh* 29: 233 – 234.  
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- 1970**
- Agnew, S. & Townsend, C. C. (1970). *Trichostomopsis* Card., a moss genus new to Asia. *Israel J. Bot.* 19: 254–259.
- 1971**
- Townsend, C. C. (1971). List of Diego Garcia bryophyta. *Atoll Res. Bull.* 149: 161 – 162.
- Townsend, C. C. (1971). *Fabrisinapis fruticosus* gen. et sp. nov. *Hooker's Icon. Pl.* 7: t. 3673.
- Townsend, C. C. (1971). Contributions to the Flora of Iraq: X. Notes on the Leguminales: 2. *Kew Bull.* 25: 445 – 470.
- Townsend, C. C. (1971). Tropical African Plants: XXXI. Umbelliferae. *Kew Bull.* 25: 184 – 186.
- Townsend, C. C. (1972). *Galeopsis*. In: T. G. Tutin *et al.* (eds), *Flora Europaea* 3: 145 – 147. Cambridge.
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- 1972**
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- 1973**
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- 1974**
- Townsend, C. C. (1974). Cornales. *Encyclopaedia Britannica* ed. 15, 5: 174 – 178.
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- 1975**
- Townsend, C. C. (1975). *Pseudoscleropodium purum* (Hedw.) Fleisch. in two more tropical islands. *Bryologist* 78: 73 – 74.
- Townsend, C. C. (1975). Bryophytes from the Cook Islands. *Atoll Res. Bull.* 190: 85.
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- Townsend, C. C. (1975). Towards a revision of *Haplophyllum* (Rutaceae): III. *Kew Bull.* 30: 527 – 530.
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