
A new view of Bermuda's mosses

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A recent paper (Olson, 2008) discussed the finding of *Pirella cymbifolia* (Sull.) Cardot in Bermuda, but also commented on the lack of research on the island. Fortunately further work on Bermuda bryophytes has continued over the years, and we now have a new moss list for the island.

W.E. Nicholson (1936), succinctly commenting on the Bermuda hepatics, wrote: 'The islands of the Bermuda group, owing to their extreme isolation, their very small total area, and the uniformly limestone character of the soil have but a very restricted hepatic flora, which is a collection of waifs and strays either of general European and North American distribution or derived from the West Indies and the southern parts of North America.' Bryophytes were largely ignored by botanists in the 19th century: General Sir John Henry Lefroy (FRS), (Governor of Bermuda 1872-1877) edited 'The Botany of Bermuda' published in 1884 but mentions only 'Hepaticae - *Jungermannia* sp., *Sphagnum palustre* - Bog Moss'. Verrill (1901-1902) published 574 pages on Bermuda, but bryophytes are dismissed by 'about 8 mosses and 6 Hepaticae'. Serious collecting only started in the 1920s, particularly by Elizabeth Britton, and periodic visits were made more recently by the staff of New York Botanical Gardens.

Although the island appears to be rather short on bryophyte diversity, work over the years has now extended the list to 44 mosses. As many of these finds have not been published, a list is included covering all the moss taxa so far reported, and I would also be pleased if anyone could add to the list. The numbers in brackets refer to the author references.

Amblystegium serpens var. *serpens* (Hedw.) Schimp. (7).
Amblystegium varium (Hedw.) Lindb. (1,7,10).
Anomodon rostratus (Hedw.) Schimp. (4,5,6,8,9,10).
Barbula indica var. *indica* (Hook.) Spreng. (8).
Bryum apiculatum Schwägr. (8,10).
Bryum atrovirens Brid. (1,10)
Bryum dichotomum Hedw. (8,10).
Campylopus trachyblepharon ssp. *trachyblepharon* (Müll.Hal.) Mitt. (6,8,10).
Cyclodictyon albicans (Hedw.) Kuntze (4,8).
Cyclodictyon varians (Sull.) Kuntze (6,8,10).
Didymodon tophaceus (Brid.) Lisa (8).
Eucladium verticillatum (Hedw.) Bruch & Schimp. (8,10).
Fissidens bryoides var. *bryoides* Hedw. (8).
Fissidens elegans Brid. (1,8,10).
Fissidens ovatifolius R.Ruthe (10)

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Fissidens pallidinervis Mitt. (1,8,10).
Fissidens serratus var. *serratus* Müll.Hal. (8).
Fissidens taxifolius ssp. *taxifolius* Hedw. (8,10).
Funaria flavicans Michx. (3,8,10).
Funaria hygrometrica var. *calvescens* (Schwägr.) Kindb. (8,10).
Funaria hygrometrica var. *hygrometrica* Hedw. (1,10).
Haplocladium microphyllum (Hedw.) Broth. (3,4,8,10).
Hymenostylium recurvirostre var. *recurvirostre* (Hedw.) Dixon (8,10).
Hyophiladelphus agrarius (Hedw.) R.H.Zander (1,8,10).
Isopterygium tenerum (Sw.) Mitt. (1,2,3,4,8,10).
Lepidopilum amplirete (Sull.) Mitt. (6).
Leucobryum glaucum (Hedw.) Ångström (1,10).
Luisierella barbula (Schwägr.) Steere (6,8,10).
Octoblepharum albidum Hedw. (8).
Pelekium minutulum (Hedw.) Touw (4,8,10).
Pirella cymbifolia (Sull.) Cardot (12).
Ptychostomum capillare (Hedw.) D.T.Holyoak & N.Pedersen (8,10).
Racopilum tomentosum (Hedw.) Brid. (2,6,8,10).
Sematophyllum adnatum (Michx.) E.Britton (4,8,10).
Sphagnum magellanicum Brid. (8,10).
Sphagnum perichaetiale Hampe (8).
Sphagnum trinitense Müll.Hal. (8,10).
Syrrhopodon incompletus var. *incompletus* Schwägr. (6,8,10).
Taxiphyllum taxirameum (Mitt.) M.Fleisch. (4,8).
Tortella flavovirens (Bruch) Broth. (1,10).
Trichostomum involutum Sull. (8).
Weissia controversa Hedw. (10).
Weissia flavescens (E.Britton) W.D.Reese (6,8).
Weissia jamaicensis (Mitt.) Grout (1,8,10).

Synonyms

Campylopus bermudianus R.S.Williams = *Campylopus trachyblepharon* (Müll.Hal.) Mitt.
Fissidens garberi Lesq. & James = *Fissidens pallidinervis* Mitt.
Fissidens minutulus Sull. = *Fissidens ovatifolius* RRuthe
Lepidopilum cubense (Sull.) Mitt. = *Lepidopilum amplirete* (Sull.) Mitt.
Trichostomum bermudianum (Mitt.) Paris = *Weissia jamaicensis* (Mitt.) Grout

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