Moss Talk

Introduction – mosses vs. club mosses, lichens, fungi, liverworts

Substrates/Habitats

- Small
- Only photosynthesize when wet
- Tolerate low light
- Grow above/on logs and stumps
- Rocks
- Some like acidic; some like calcium-rich
- Boundary layer = unique microclimate

Parts: stems, leaves, rhizoids

Life Cycle/Reproduction

\[ \text{spore} \rightarrow \text{protonema} \rightarrow \text{gametophyte} \]  
\[ \text{archegonia (female)} \rightarrow \text{egg} \]
\[ \text{antheridia (male)} \rightarrow \text{sperm} \]

\[ \text{fertilization} \rightarrow \text{sporophyte} \rightarrow \text{spore} \]

(seta, capsule, operculum, calyptra, peristome teeth)

Ecology

- Mosses and water (Kimmerer)
- Promote soil formation (succession)
- Acidify (*Sphagnum*) – inhibits growth of bacteria and fungi
- Absorb and slow water - releasing it slowly
- Slow erosion
- Sequesters nutrients
- Animals

Identification

Human Use

Gardening

Conservation

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Useful Moss Resources

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Natural Heritage
217 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219


Missouri Botanical Garden website’s Bryology home page  http://www.mobot.org/MOBOT/tropicos/most/welcome.shtml

Missouri Botanical Garden website’s BFNA (*Bryophyte Flora of North America*) Summary of Treatments webpage  http://www.mobot.org/plantscience/BFNA/SUMMary.htm


Join a moss workshop on the last Saturday of each month 10 am – noon at the
Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum
300 Oella Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21128
For a map: http://tinyurl.com/6h6dvh
Phone: 410-887-1081
www.museumsusa.org/museums/info/1167091
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Contact Linda if you want to be added to the moss workshop email list.