

Moss Talk

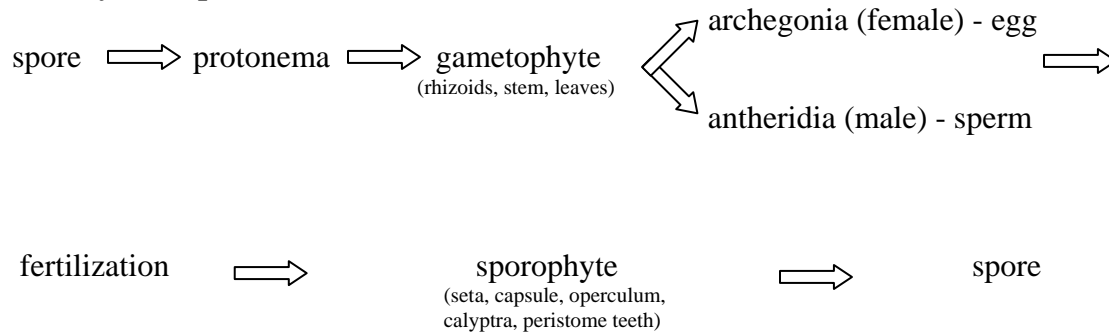
Introduction – mosses vs. club mosses, lichens, fungi, liverworts

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



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

Breil, David A. Common and Occasional Bryophytes of the Virginia Piedmont. *Banisteria*, 21, 2003.
(Available from the VA Natural History Society) <http://fwie.fw.vt.edu/vnhs> or
steve.roble@dcr.virginia.gov

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

Crum, Howard A. *Mosses of the Great Lakes Forest* (4th edition). Ann Arbor, MI: The University of Michigan Herbarium, 2004.

Crum, Howard A. and Anderson, Lewis E. *Mosses of Eastern North America*, Volumes 1 and 2. New York: Columbia University Press, 1981. (out of print)

Fletcher, Michael. *Moss Grower's Handbook: An Illustrated Beginner's Guide to Finding, Naming, and Growing Over 100 Common British Species* (downloadable on-line book)
<http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/bbs/Resources/Fletcher.pdf>

Glime, Janice. *Moss Ecology* (on-line book) <http://www.bryoecol.mtu.edu/>

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History*. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press, 2003.

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>

Sargent, Malcolm L. and Diane Lucas. *Perspective Oriented Guide for the Identification of North American Moss Genera* (on-line guide) <http://www.life.uiuc.edu/moss-guide/>

Schenk, George. *Moss Gardening: Including Lichens, Liverworts, and Other Miniatures*. Portland, OR, Timber Press, Inc., 2004.

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

www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/recreation/countyparks/

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Contact Linda if you want to be added to the moss workshop email list.