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Bryophytes of Des Moines County, Iowa

ROSEMARY THELE

Abstract. The total number of mosses reported in Des Moines County up until April 1, 1961, is 52; the total number of liverworts, 6. Of these, 14 species of mosses are newly recorded in this report. At least 25 more mosses and 5 or 6 more liverworts should be found in this county.

I owe much of my interest in the study of mosses to Dr. H. S. Conard, author of the book *How to Know the Mosses*. It was through his encouragement that I continued collecting mosses after I began my study as a biology project three years ago, and it is at his request that I am making this report of my findings.

The most recent lists of mosses and liverworts of Iowa are those of Dr. Conard (1945, 1956). In these reports the counties are designated in which each species is known to occur. The number of species from a county reflects principally the amount of collecting that has been done in that county.

Since the number of species known from Des Moines County is relatively small, I have collected in the hope of extending the knowledge of these plants in Iowa. Previous collections in Des Moines County were made by Professor B. Shimek of the State University and by Dr. Conard. My collections have been verified by Dr. Conard. In order to facilitate further contributions to the bryophyte flora of Des Moines County, I am presenting a complete list of the species so far reported. My collections are designated by a single asterisk; those species in my collection which are newly reported in this paper are designated by two asterisks.

**MUSCI**

Amblystegium varium*
Anomodon attenuatus*
Anomodon minor
Anomodon rostratus*
Atrichum angustatum**
Atrichum undulatum*
Atrichum undulatum var. altecrisatum
Barbula fallax
Barbula unguiculata*
Brachythecium flagellare**
Brachythecium oxycladon*
Brachythecium salesbrosium*
Bryhnia graminicolor*
Bryum argenteum*
Bryum caespiticium*
Campylium cristophyllum*
Campylium hypidulatum**
Ceratodon purpureus**
Chamberlainia acuminata*
Climacium americanum*
Desmatodon porteri
Dicranella heteromalla**
Diconoem scoparium**

Didymodon tophaceus
Entodon seductrix*
Eurhynchium hians*
Eurhynchium serrulatum*
Fissidentes Julianus
Fissidentes taxifolius*
Funaria hygrometrica
Grimmia apocarpa
Gumnostomum calcareum
Gumnostomum recurvoirostrum
Hygroamblystegium irriguum*
Hygroamblystegium notorophilum*
Leptobryum pyrriforme**
Leptodictyum riparium*
Leptodictium trichorpusoidium**
Leskea gracilescens*
Leskea nervosa
Leskea obscura*
Leucothrix galactum**
Mnium cuspidatum**
Phascum cuspidatum var. americanum**
Plagiothecium geophyllum
Platygyrium repens
Pohlia wahlenbergii

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BRYOPHYTES  

Polytrichum juniperinum**  
Rhodobryum roseum  
Thuidium recognitum**  

Timmia megapolitana  
Weisia viridula*  

HEPATICAE  

Conocephalum conicum  
Frullania eboracensis  
Frullania riparia  

Porella pinnata (the only locality in the state)  
Porella platyphyloidea  
 Reboulia hemisphaerica  

In all, 14 species of mosses are new records for Des Moines County. Totals are mosses, 52; liverworts, 6. At least 25 more mosses should be found and 5 or 6 more liverworts. Much work remains to be done in collecting bryophytes in this county, as in most of the counties of Iowa.

I wish to express thanks to Sister Mary Josita, R.S.M., biology teacher at Notre Dame High School, and to Dr. H. S. Conard, Honorary Fellow of the Academy, for assistance throughout this study, including the preparation of this report.

ADDENDUM  

Since making this report the following species have been added to the list:

Amblystegium compactum**  
Aulacomnium heterostichum**  
Bartramia pomiformis**  
Brachythecium rutabulum**  
Cirriphyllum boscii**  

Grimmia apocarpa alpicola**  
Hypnum patientiae americanae**  
(new to the state)  
Physcomitrium pyriforme (turbinatum)**  
Polytrichum commune**  

Literature Cited  