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Bryophytes of South-central Colorado. Part 1

By JAMES H. CRAFT and IRENE H. CRAFT

Prominent among the names of the many bryologists who have collected in Colorado are those of Leo Lesquereux, T. S. Brandegee, T. C. Porter, and A. J. Grout. Their findings are discussed by Dr. Geneva Sayre in an unpublished dissertation on the mosses of Colorado, a work completed in 1938 (2). She points out that, with the exception of Brandegee's collections in southwest Colorado, collections of southern Colorado mosses are either meagre or lacking. The largest reported collection of recent date from southern Colorado is that of Dr. Belle K. Stewart who collected fourteen species in the Creede Valley incident to an ecological study of its vascular flora. It is known that H. S. Conard, Frederick McAllister and others have collected specimens in southern Colorado but the present writers have been unable so far to find published reports of their findings.

The south-central portion of Colorado is considered for the purposes of this study to include roughly those portions of the state south of Colorado Springs, west to the Continental Divide and east through Huerfano County. This area includes portions of the Sangre de Cristo, San Juan, and Sawatch ranges and the unique San Luis Valley—the largest intermontane basin in the state. The altitude varies from 6500 to more than 14,000 feet. The wide variety of soils and microclimates combine to present a wide range of ecological conditions. The relative isolation of this region from other colleges and universities has not encouraged the visits of bryologists when other interesting areas of the state could be more easily reached.

It is the intention of the present authors to fill some of the gaps in our present knowledge of south-central Colorado bryophytes and this paper is the first report of their findings. The following list represents the identified species collected by the authors between altitudes of 7600 and 9600 feet during the late spring and summer of 1951. The names given are those used in Grout's *MOSS FLORA OF NORTH AMERICA* (1) and citation of authorities therefore will be omitted. For each species there is a brief note on habitat, and the county, or counties, where it was found are listed.

The writers wish to acknowledge gratefully the invaluable assis-

tance of Dr. H. S. Conard who has made determinations, lent specimens, and given encouragement without stint.

List of Mosses in the Collections

1. *Atrichum undulatum* var. *selwyni*. On soil, Spring Creek Canyon, Huerfano Co.
2. *Aulacomnium palustre*. On swampy ground, Conejos Co.
3. *Brachythecium collinum*. Common on earth and rocks by streams, Huerfano and Conejos counties.
4. *Bryum argenteum*. On compact moist earth in lawns and streambanks. Alamosa, Conejos, and Huerfano counties.
5. *Bryum capillare*. Saguache, Costilla, Hinsdale counties; on earth.
6. *Ceratodon purpureus*. On creek banks everywhere, and our commonest species to date. Conejos, Huerfano, and Rio Grande counties.
7. *Ceratodon purpureus* f. *xanthopus*. On bank of Conejos River, Conejos Co.
8. *Climacium americanum*. In dense mats along the banks of mountain streams. Conejos, Hinsdale, Mineral counties.
9. *Dicranoweisia cirrhata*. On stumps and decaying wood; Conejos and Huerfano counties.
10. *Dicranoweisia crispula*. On rocks in spruce-fir forest; Conejos and Huerfano counties.
11. *Dicranum rhabdocarpum*. On soil and rocks in spruce-fir forest; Huerfano Co.
12. *Dicranum scoparium*. On shaded soil, rocks, and decaying wood. Alamosa Co.
13. *Didymodon recurvirostris*. On soil; Huerfano and Mineral counties.
14. *Distichium capillaceum*. In rock crevices; Conejos and Saguache counties.
15. *Drepanocladus uncinatus*. On earth and rocks along streams; Mineral Co.
16. *Encalypta vulgaris*. In rock crevices along stream banks. Alamosa and Rio Grande counties.
17. *Eurhynchium diversifolium*. On earth and rocks; Huerfano and Mineral counties.
18. *Fontinalis duriaei*. In irrigation ditches and streams; not previously reported from Colorado. Conejos and Hinsdale counties.
19. *Funaria hygrometrica*. On abandoned beaver dams and stream banks. Alamosa and Huerfano counties.
20. *Grimmia calyptrata*. Common on dry boulders in Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Hinsdale, Huerfano and Saguache counties.
21. *Hedwigia ciliata*. On igneous boulders; Mineral Co.
22. *Hygroamblystegium irriguum*. On bank of the Conejos River, Conejos Co. Not previously reported from Colorado.
23. *Hygrohypnum ochraceum*. On a submerged stone in Mosca Creek, Great Sand Dunes National Monument, Alamosa Co.
24. *Hypnum revolutum*. Common on rocks in woods in the mountains. Conejos and Huerfano counties.

25. *Leptobryum pyriforme*. On moist earth in Spring Creek Canyon, Huerfano Co.
26. *Leptodictyum trichopodium*. On soil. Conejos and Rio Grande counties.
27. *Mnium arizonicum*. On shaded earth on streambanks. Conejos and Huerfano counties.
28. *Mnium marginatum*. On wet rocks on the bank of South Fork, Mineral Co.
29. *Neckera pennata* var. *oligocarpa*. Pendent beneath a ledge of igneous rock at Twin Bridges, Mineral County.
30. *Orthotrichum hallii*. On dry boulders, often associated with *Grimmia calyptrata*. Rio Grande and Saguache counties.
31. *Philonotis fontana*. In a hanging bog beside the highway up Wolf Creek Pass, Mineral County.
32. *Philonotis fontana* var. *falcata*. In a hanging bog. Wolf Creek Pass, Mineral Co.
33. *Pohlia cruda*. On soil over rocks. Conejos and Huerfano counties.
34. *Pohlia nutans*. On the bank of Conejos River, Conejos Co.
35. *Polytrichum gracile*. On damp soil; Saguache Co.
36. *Pylasia jamesii*. Not previously reported from Colorado. The specimen was a small fruiting one. Found on the base of a tree, Spring Creek Canyon, Huerfano Co.
37. *Rhytidium rugosum*. Found on an igneous boulder in Bellows Creek Canyon, Mineral Co.
38. *Timmia austriaca* forma *brevifolia*. On soils in shade; Huerfano Co.
39. *Tortula mucronifolia*. On soil and rocks; Huerfano, Mineral, and Saguache counties.
40. *Tortula ruralis*. On soil and rocks. Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Huerfano, and Saguache counties.

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1. Grout, A. J. Moss Flora of North America. Vols. I, II, III. 1928-1940. Newfane, Vt.
2. Sayre, Geneva. The Moss Flora of Colorado. Doctoral Dissertation University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado. 1938.

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