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THE MOSSES OF SOUTHWESTERN IOWA

GENEVA SAYRE AND H. S. CONARD

The territory of southwestern Iowa in this report includes Harrison, Shelby, Audubon, Guthrie, Pottawatomie, Cass, Adair, Mills, Montgomery, Adams, Union, Fremont, Page, Taylor and Ringgold counties. Four of these border the Missouri state line and four are along the Missouri river. About half the region is prairie, unmodified by erosion or the deposition of loess in hills. The mosses were collected on the wooded banks of streams or in cultivated land. The collections were made mostly by Dr. Conard during 1930-1933. They are obviously incomplete. In some counties only one stop was made for collecting, in others the work was done more thoroughly.

There were seventy-five species, varieties and forms identified in the collections. Two species, *Leskea gracilescens* and *Mnium cuspidatum*, were found in all the counties. Those found in all but one of the counties were *Anomodon minor* and *Brachythecium oxycladon*. *Brachythecium cyrtophyllum* was found in all but two of the counties. In twelve of the fifteen counties were *Amblystegium riparium* forms, *Entodon cladorrhizans* and *Barbula unguiculata*. *Brachythecium salebrosum* was in eleven counties. In ten counties were found *Amblystegium irriguum*, *A. varium*, *Platygyrium repens* and *Catharinea angustata*. In nine counties were *Bryum caespiticium*, *Entodon seductrix*, *Eurhynchium hians* and *E. serrulatum*. Of the liverworts, *Frullania eboracensis* was found in ten counties and *F. inflata* in eight.

Only one genus, *Pylaisia*, represented by *P. schimperi*, was found which was not listed in Conard and Wolden's *Key to the Mosses of the Okoboji Region*.¹ There were six other species not in the key, *Frullania eboracensis*, *Bryum affine*, *Fissidens taxifolius*, *Mniobryum carneum*, *Mnium stellare* and *Thuidium virginianum*. Several varieties and forms were found which were not in the key. *Mniobryum carneum* is a new species for the state. The second collection of *Fabronia octoblepharis* for Iowa was made near Manti, Fremont County.

Adaptations of the mosses to the prairie habitat were mostly a

¹ Conard, H. S., and B. O. Wolden. A key to the mosses of the Okoboji region. Bull. S. U. I. New Series No. 238. November 1, 1932.

shortening of leaf cells and costa. Most of the variations occurred in species of *Amblystegium* and *Brachythecium*. We have called all the *Leskea* forms *L. gracilescens*, although further work may reveal other species.

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