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Notes on Iowa Mosses. IV

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NOTES ON IOWA MOSSES. IV

LUCY M. CAVANAGH

Work on the moss flora of Iowa at the State University in the past year has added fourteen species and varieties to the state list. These forms represent nine families and thirteen genera, one family (*Fabroniaceae*) and two genera (*Fabronia* and *Amphidium*) being new to the state.

The species were all collected by Dr. B. Shimek or the writer, and some of them are portions of the earlier collections, which are still yielding material of much interest.

The nomenclature of Grout's "Mosses with Hand-Lens and Microscope" has been followed where possible. In the work of identification Grout's "Mosses with Hand-Lens and Microscope," Barnes and Heald's "Keys to the Genera and Species of North American Mosses," Lesquereux and James' "Manual of the Mosses of North America," and Sullivant's "Icones Muscorum," with "Supplement," have been used.

Comparisons were also made with the Holzinger set of Acrocarpous mosses, with the Lesquereux collection of mosses, and with a set of mosses distributed by the Farlow Herbarium of Harvard University, all of which are in the Herbarium of the State University.

SPECIES AND VARIETIES NEW TO IOWA

Family *SPHAGNACEAE*

Sphagnum.....sp.

The species has not been determined, but it is distinct from other known Iowa forms. It was found on a ledge of St. Peter sandstone in Clayton County in August, 1930.

The habitat here noted is most surprising for it certainly in no way resembles the traditional "Sphagnum bog," and the fact that the sandstone retains moisture is the only excuse offered for this moss' growing high on a rocky ledge.

It was mingled with other mosses, such as *Luecobryum glaucum*, *Thuidium delicatulum*, *Mnium rostratum*, *Climacium americanum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum*, and a species of *Catharinea* (probably *C. Macmillani*).

Family *POLYTRICHACEAE*

Catharinea undulata var. *altecristata* Ren. & Card.

On partly shaded bank on West Okoboji Lake, August 29, 1916.

This variety is not recognized by Grout, but is given in the Barnes and Heald key with the following characterization: "Lamellae of leaves much higher than in typical form; capsule narrow and erect. Bot. Gaz. 15:58. Kan., Pa."

Sections of the leaves show 5 lamellae 6 to 12 cells high.

Polytrichum gracile Dicks.

On ground in woods near East Okoboji Lake. Sterile. September 30, 1916.

A *Polytrichum* found growing on a ledge of St. Peter Sandstone in Clayton County, in August, 1930, was at first identified as *P. strictum* Banks on account of the stem being covered with felted radicles, but it has proved to be an unusual form of *P. juniperinum* Willd.

The Grout key gives *P. juniperinum* "without felted radicles," but the examination of many specimens, including those from the Lesquereux and the Holzinger sets, shows a wide range of variation in this character. The position of the leaves seems to be a safer guide. They are erectum in *P. strictum* and spreading in *P. juniperinum*.

Family *DICRANACEAE*

Dicranella rufescence (Dicks.) Schimp.

On seepy ground near Lower Gar Lake, Dickinson County, August 25, 1916.

Pleuroidium palustre (Muell.)

Along the edge of a canal, Upper Gar Lake, Dickinson County. August 26, 1916.

Family *GRIMMIACEAE*

Hedwigia albicans var. *viride* Schimp.

On granite boulders, partly shaded. Near East Okoboji Lake. June 25, 1930.

Family *TORTULACEAE*

Phascum Floerkianum W. & M.

On open drift hill near West Okoboji Lake. June 4, 1930.

The Grout key runs this form to the genus *Acaulon* in the *Ephemeraceae*, but the leaves of *Acaulon* are smooth while these are papillose. In the discussion of the genus *Acaulon* Grout says: "*Phascum Floerkianum* W. & M., a very rare plant, closely resembles the species of *Acaulon* but has the leaves papillose above on both sides and an apiculate capsule." He does not, however, mention this species under *Phascum*!

Pottia littoralis Mitt. var.?

On bank at spring, near Lower Gar Lake, Dickinson County. August 25, 1916, and July 8, 1918.

This form runs to *P. littoralis* in the Barnes and Heald key, but the description is rather unsatisfactory. It is probably a variety of *P. littoralis*.

Family *ORTHOTRICHACEAE*

Amphidium californicum Hampe.

On sandy ground near Spirit Lake, Iowa. August 5, 1913.

The specimens show antheridia only.

Family *BRYACEAE*

Pohlia elongata Hedw.

On ledge of St. Peter Sandstone, Clayton County. October 31, 1927.

Bryum uliginosum (Sw.) Bland.

Shaded banks, west of Milford. June 25, 1930.

Family *HYPNACEAE*

Entodon seductrix var. *minor* (Aust.) Grout.

With *Leskea polycarpa*, at base of bur oak. Near Lower Gar Lake, Dickinson County. August 25, 1916.

Family *FABRONIACEAE*

Fabronia gymnostoma Sulliv. & Lesq.

On red cedar, near West Okoboji Lake. August 16, 1916.

The Grout key does not contain this species, but states that "the only species likely to be found in our range is *F. octoblepharis* (Schleich.) Schwaeg."

NOTES ON OTHER IOWA MOSSES

Climacium dendroides (L.) Web. & Mohr.

Near Milford. August 14, 1902. Sterile.

This species has been considered very rare in this region, but it may have been simply overlooked. The finding of this specimen makes it seem probable that the form listed by Dr. Chas. E. Bessey, and commented on by the writer in a previous paper before this Academy (still unpublished), was *C. dendroides* rather than *C. americana*.

Seligeriae. The species of this subfamily are referred to in the Grout manual as "very minute plants of alpine summits and cool ravines." They are considered so rare that none have been listed in the manual. There are, however, several species of *Seligeria* in Iowa.

Dr. Conard and Miss Betty Blagg have them from Mitchell and Fayette counties, and we have them from Dubuque, Clayton, Allamakee and Johnson counties.

There are probably three species, but they need more careful study and will receive attention as soon as possible.

These species, together with eight more of the above list which Dr. Grout has either not included in his manual or listed as rare, indicate that Iowa has numerous unique forms and is especially rich in her moss flora.

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