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Annotated Checklist of the Bryophytes Observed at the Gordon Natural Area West Chester University, PA) 2007-2020. Version I

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Summary Data

Number of Taxa: 35 Species, in 28 Genera, 23 Families, and 12 Orders.

Description

The bryophytes are an informal group that is composed of three divisions of non-vascular plants: the liverworts, hornworts, and mosses. Of these, the mosses are the most familiar to most people, but the three groups are similar in appearance, and differ only in their reproductive structures. All bryophytes lack specialized tissues for transporting resources (i.e., vascular tissue); hence, they are characteristically small in stature. Additionally, bryophytes do not produce flowers or seeds; rather, reproduction is through spores.

Bryophytes have received relatively little investigation at the GNA. In 2007, WCU undergraduate Spencer Ruston, under the supervision of Dr. Sharon Began, conducted a site-wide survey of bryophytes at the GNA, in which he noted 17 species. In 2009, undergrad Cindy Law, also under the supervision of Dr. Began, began another site-wide study of the GNA's bryophytes. Although she didn't finish this work, she did compile a photographic record of the eight species of bryophytes that she encountered.

No additional work was done on bryophytes from that time until 2019, at which point GNA staff began photographing and collecting bryophytes with an aim towards creating a more complete account of this biotic group at the GNA. The principal staff associated with this work are GNA Stewardship Manager Nur Ritter and GNA Student Intern Noah Long. These data have been augmented by observations posted on iNaturalist (www.inaturalist.org).

Status/Threats

IUCN Status: Only nine species of bryophytes on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2020) have been evaluated for their status in North America. None of these species are known for the Gordon.

The GNA checklist was compared with the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Species and Natural Features List (PNHP 2020). Of the 306 bryophyte species on the list, three are known to occur in the GNA. The state rankings from the PNHP list have been incorporated into the checklist.

Species

Amblystegiaceae

Amblystegiaceae Indet. #1. (No Common Name)

Identified By: C.J. Pasiche Lisboa (iNaturalist); First Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2020

Aneuraceae

Aneura Indet. #1. (Pellia)

Identified By: Scott Schuette (iNaturalist); First Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2020

Anomodontaceae

Anomodon attenuatus (Poodle Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2019; 2020

Brachytheciaceae

Bryoandersonia illecebra (Spoon-leaved Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston; Also Noted By: N. Ritter; kojo1019 (iNaturalist)

Years Observed: 2007; 2019; 2020

Climaciaceae

Climacium dendroides (Northern Tree Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter; **Also Noted By:** A. Rivellini; N. Long

Years Observed: 2019; 2020

Dicranaceae

Dicranella heteromalla (Fine Hair Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston; **Also Noted By:** N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2007; 2020

Ditrichaceae

Ceratodon purpureus (Purple Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2019

Entodontaceae

Entodon seductrix (Seductive Entodon Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2020

Fissidentaceae

Fissidens adianthoides (Maidenhair Pocket Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: C. Law; Also Noted By: N. Ritter; A. Rivellini

Years Observed: 2009; 2019; 2020

Status

PNHC State Status: Vulnerable

Fissidens osmundoides (Fern Pocket Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2019; 2020

Funariaceae

Funaria Indet. #1. (No Common Name)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston

Year Observed: 2007

Physcomitrium pyriforme (Goblet Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2020

Geocalycaceae

Lophocolea heterophylla (Variable-leaf Crestwort)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston; Also Noted By: C. Law; N. Ritter; P. Vermeulen

Years Observed: 2007; 2009; 2019; 2020

Grimmiaceae

Grimmia Indet. #1. (No Common Name)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston

Year Observed: 2007

Schistidium apocarpum Group (Schistidium Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2019; 2020

Hedwigiaceae

Hedwigia ciliata (White-tipped Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston; Also Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2007; 2020

Hypnaceae

Hypnum imponens (Brocade Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston; Also Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2007; 2019

Platygyrium repens (Oil Spill Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston; Also Noted By: C. Law; G. Hertel; N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2007; 2009; 2010; 2019

Jubulaceae

Frullania eboracensis (New York Scalewort)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter; Also Noted By: N. Long

Years Observed: 2017; 2019; 2020

Leucobryaceae

Leucobryum albidum (White Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston

Year Observed: 2007

Leucobryum glaucum (Pincushion Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2019

Mniaceae

Plagiomnium ciliare (Saber Tooth Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston; Also Noted By: C. Law; N. Ritter; N. Long

Years Observed: 2007; 2009; 2019; 2020

Plagiomnium cuspidatum (Baby Tooth Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston; Also Noted By: N. Ritter; P. Vermeulen

Years Observed: 2007; 2019; 2020

Rhizomnium punctatum (Dotted Thyme Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2019; 2020

Orthotrichaceae

Orthotrichum cf. stellatum (Stellate Orthotrichum Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2019

Status

PNHC State Status: Imperiled/Apparently Secure

Orthotrichum strangulatum (Drummond Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2019; 2020

Polytrichaceae

Atrichum altecristatum (Wavy Starburst Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2019

Atrichum angustatum (Lesser Smoothcap Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston; Also Noted By: C. Law; N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2007; 2009; 2019

Atrichum undulatum (Wavy Catharinea)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston; Also Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2007; 2019

Polytrichum ohioense (Ohio Haircap Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston; Also Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2007; 2020

Pottiaceae

Pottiaceae Indet. #1. (No Common Name)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2018; 2019

Ptychomitriaceae

Ptychomitrium incurvum (Gnome's Hood Moss)

Identified By: C.J. Pasiche Lisboa (iNaturalist); First Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2019

Status

PNHC State Status: Imperiled/Apparently Secure

Radulaceae

Radula cf. complanata (Flatleaf Scalewort)

Identified and First Noted By: N. Ritter

Year Observed: 2020

Thuidiaceae

Thuidium allenii (Fernmoss)

Identified and First Noted By: S. Ruston

Year Observed: 2007

Thuidium delicatulum (Delicate Fern Moss)

Identified and First Noted By: C. Law; Also Noted By: N. Ritter

Years Observed: 2009; 2019

References

[IUCN] International Union for the Conservation of Species. 2020. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2020-2. <https://www.iucnredlist.org>. Date Accessed: 6/30/2020.

[PNHP] Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2020. Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Species and Natural Features List (<http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/SpeciesFeatures.aspx>); Date accessed: 3/27/2020.

Metadata

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