

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF MOSSES FROM RAJASTHAN

Although the study of bryophytes dates back to the last quarter of 18th century (Hedwig, 1782-1801), in India the beginning in this branch of study was made by Prof. Kashyap (1914) when he published an article on the West Himalayan hepatics. Since then quite a good amount of work has been done on various aspects of Bryology. However, mosses did not attract the same attention as the hepatics.

In Rajasthan, which is the second largest state of India in area, the study of mosses remained neglected. With a view to study the bryoflora of Rajasthan, investigations were started a few years back. Mosses have been collected from different places in the districts of Jaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur, Bundi, Sriganganagar and from Mount Abu (a hill station of Rajasthan at an altitude of about 1260m) in Sirohi District. The specimens have been deposited in the Herbarium of Botany Department of Rajasthan University, Jaipur and their numbers have been mentioned within brackets against the species. The detailed account of these species will be given elsewhere. The following is the list of species :

I. Family Pottiaceae.

1. *Semibarbula orientalis* (Web.) Wijk and Marg. (nos. 14286-14299 & 16212).
2. *S. ranuii* Gang. (no. 16211).
- **3. *Hyophila involuta* (Hook.) Jaeg. (nos. 14300-14308 & 17871).
- *4. *Anoetangium stracheyanum* Mitt. (no. 17865).
- *5. *Gymnostomum calcareum* Nees & Hornsch. (no. 17868)
- *6. *Timmiella diminuta* (G. Muell.) Chen (no. 17870).

II. Family Splachnaceae

7. *Gymnostomiella vermicosa* (Hook.) Fleisch. (nos. 14309-14318).

III. Family Fissidentaceae

- **8. *Fissidens curvato-involutus* Dix. (nos. 14319-14321).
9. *F. atroviridis* Besch. (nos. 14332-14323).
- *10. *F. bryoides* Hedw. (no. 14324).

IV. Family Bryaceae.

- *11. *Anomobryum auratum* (Mitt.) Jaeg. (no. 17862).
- *12. *Bryum argenteum* (P. Beauv.) Hampe. (no. 17863).
- *13. *B. caespiticium* Lin. (nos. 14325-14329).
14. *B. cirratum* Hoppe et Hornschuch. (nos. 14330, 14331).
- **15. *B. ventricosum* Dicks. (nos. 14332-14335).
- *16. *Brachymenium sikkimense* Ren. & Card. (no. 17867).

V. Family Bartramiaceae

- *17. *Philonotis angustata* Mitt. (no. 17864).

VI. Family Erpodiaceae

- *18. *Aulacopilum abbreviatum* Mitt. (no. 17866).

VII Family Entodontaceae

- *19. *Levierella fabroniaceae* C. Muell. (no. 17869).
- *20. *Entodon myurus* (Hook.) Jaeger. (no. 17861).

VIII. Family Encalyptaceae

- 21. *Encalypta rhabdocarpa* Schwaegr. (nos. 14338-14343).

IX. Family Funariaceae.

- *22. *Funaria wjiki* Chopra (no. 14334).
- 23. *Physcomitrium japonicum* (Hedw.) Mitt. (no. 14337).

It is interesting to note that mosses of Mount Abu (alt. 1260 m) and of planes are different except for *Hyophila involuta* and *Fissidens curvato-involutus* (marked with two asterisks) which are common at both places. Mosses marked with one asterisk are collected from Mount Abu only and others are found in the planes only.

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