



Discovering Mosses

Moss specimen record sheet



Connect with nature
Promote microscopy
Inspire STEM



Step 1

What you see with the naked eye

Date:

Environment

Location name:

Post code or coordinates:

Growing surface:

Gametophyte

Growth form description:

Colour:

Texture:

Sporophytes (if present)

Present or absent?

Form:



Step 2

Close-up with phone camera or hand lens

Zoom in on stems, leaves, and capsules:

Gametophyte

Leaf shape:

Leaf size: (<1 mm), (1–3 mm), (>3 mm).

Nerve (midrib):

Leaf edge:

Arrangement of leaves:

Sporophyte (if present)

Capsule

Shape:

Colour:

Seta (stalk)

Colour:

Texture:

Shape:



Step 3

Hand lens detail or microscope

Look for fine details that separate similar species:

Leaf cells

Shape:

Texture:

Cell arrangement:

Nerve cross-section (microscope):

Special structures

Hair points:

Alar cells:

Gemmae:

Quick Tips: Take photos at each step – wide, close, and detailed. Compare with a field guide e.g. <https://www.britishbryologicalsociety.org.uk/>
Don't worry about getting to species right away, even recognising moss families and forms is a great start.



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