



Discovering Mosses

Some urban mosses



Connect with nature
Promote microscopy
Inspire STEM

Spotting and identifying urban mosses



Look around your local area to find mosses growing on walls, tree trunks, pavement cracks and around drain covers.

Look for growth forms, leaf shape, 'hairiness', colour and the shapes of any capsules.

As these two pictures show, often more than one types of moss grows in the same space.



Acrocarpous (cushions)

Wall Screw-moss *Tortula muralis*



Small grey-green cushions on walls or roofs. Upright shoots with twisting leaves when dry. Leaf tips often end in a short white hair.

Capillary Thread-moss *Bryum capillare*



Bright green, glossy tufts on soil or walls. Leaves tightly twisted when dry, spreading when moist. Tall reddish stalks with nodding capsules.

Intermediate screw-moss *Syntrichia intermedia*



Dull green to brown cushions on walls or soil. Curled leaves when dry, spreading when wet. Leaf tips end in a long white hair point.

Pleurocarpous (mats)

Take part and share

Share your moss photos on social media.

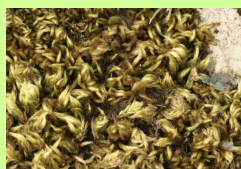
Use hashtag
#iseemoss

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Silky Wall Feather-moss *Homalothecium sericeum*



Shiny golden-green mats on walls or tree bark. Flattened, feather-like shoots. Leaves pressed close, giving a silky sheen.

Rough-stalked Feather-moss *Brachythecium rutabulum*



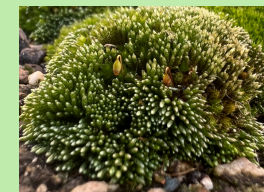
Glossy green to yellow mats on soil, walls, or trees. Irregular feathery branching. Curved overlapping leaves give a rough look.

Grey-cushioned Grimmia *Grimmia pulvinata*



Silvery-grey cushions on walls or roofs. Curved leaves with long white hair tips. Dark green inside when moist.

Sliver-moss *Bryum argenteum*

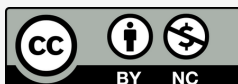


Silvery-green cushions in pavement cracks, walls, and roofs. Short, upright shoots with tightly packed leaves. Shiny and pale when dry, bright green when moist.

Anomalous Bristle-moss *Orthotrichum anomalum*



Dark green tufts on stone or walls. Short upright shoots with neat capsules. Capsules often half-hidden among leaves.



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