



Discovering Mosses

Some urban mosses

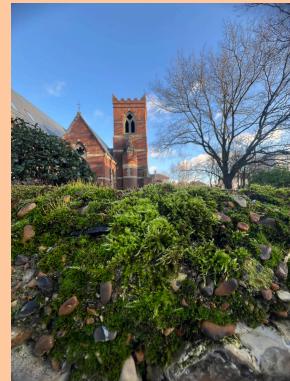


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Spotting and identifying urban mosses



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, 'hairyness', colour and the shapes of any capsules.

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

Pleurocarpous (mats)

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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.

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.

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.

