

# Wessex Ecological Consultancy

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## TROOPERS HILL BRYOPHYTES

Bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) recorded at Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve on 10th December 2021. Only species growing on the ground and small rocks were recorded; there are doubtless other species growing on trees but no attempt was made to record these.

Most of the species listed below belong to one of two ecological communities on the hill.

The first is the extensive and, in winter at least, conspicuous community of pleurocarp mosses growing under heath, often accompanied by *Cladonia* lichens. The most important members of this community are *Polytrichum piluliferum*, *Polytrichum juniperum* and *Pseudoscleropodium purum*.

The second community grows on sparsely vegetated soil, most frequently on steep banks. Where soils are deep and nutrient-rich this community is dominated by widespread species such as *Bryum capillare*, *Fissidens bryoides* and *Fissidens taxifolius*. Where soils are thinner and more acidic small acrocarps such as *Tortula truncata*, *Weissia controversa*, *Pohlia melanodon* and *Ceratodon purpureus* are dominant. On north-west facing banks around the gully the tiny liverwort *Cephaloziella divaricata* is locally frequent.

Many of the species recorded are restricted to acidic soils and are therefore uncommon in the Bristol region and these are doubtless the best examples locally of both community types. The closest areas where these communities are well developed are the Mendips and the Forest of Dean, although there are fragmented examples around Pensford and Midsomer Norton, in Leigh Woods and on the fringes of the Gordano Valley.

Several of the species recorded appear to be very rare locally: these include the mosses *Weissia controversa* and *Polytrichum commune* and the liverwort *Cephaloziella divaricata*.

It is highly likely that further survey could add significantly to this species list.

Rupert Higgins

## Mosses

Amblystegium serpens  
Brachythecium albicans  
Brachythecium rutabulum  
Bryum argenteum  
Bryum capillare  
Bryum dichotomum  
Campylopus flexuosus  
Campylopus introflexus  
Ceratodon purpureus  
Dicranella heteromalla  
Dicranum scoparium  
Didymodon fallax  
Didymodon insulanus  
Fissidens bryoides  
Fissidens taxifolius  
Grimmia pulvinata  
Hypnum cupressiforme  
Kindbergia praelonga  
Pohlia melanodon  
Polytrichum commune  
Polytrichum juniperum  
Polytrichum piliferum  
Pseudoscleropodium purum  
Tortula truncata  
Weissia controversa

## Liverworts

Cephaloziella divaricata