

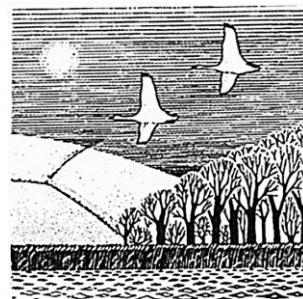
Wessex Ecological Consultancy

28 Egerton Road, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8HL

Tel: 0117 9441034

Email: [dawn](mailto:dawn@wessexeco.co.uk) or [rupert](mailto:rupert@wessexeco.co.uk)@wessexeco.co.uk

Web: wessexeco.co.uk



TROOPERS HILL BRYOPHYTES

Bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) have been recorded at Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve on four visits between 10th December 2021 and 23rd November 2025. 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 *Hypnum cupressiforme* var. *cupressiforme*, *Hypnum jutlandicum*, *Polytrichum piluliferum*, *Polytrichum juniperinum* and *Pseudoscleropodium purum*. Thinner soils in these areas support a mixed community of acrocarps, which include *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Campylopus introflexus* (an introduced species), *Campylopus flexuosus* and *Campylopus pyriformis*.

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 *Pleuridium acuminatum*, *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 and banks by the path to the south of the gully have the *Cephaloziella* and three more liverworts: *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Cephalozia bicupsidata* and *Solenostoma gracillimum* (formerly *Jungermannia gracillima*). Banks on either side of a smaller gully at the western end of the main gully has two more small liverworts: *Gymocolea inflata* and *Isopaches birenatus* (formerly *Lophozia birenata*). These and other small, inconspicuous species are probably widespread on steep banks elsewhere in and around the gully.

Many of the species recorded are restricted to acidic soils and are therefore uncommon in the Bristol region; these are doubtless the best examples locally of moss communities dominated by species such as *Polytrichum juniperinum*. 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*, *Campylopus pyriformis*, *Campylopus flexuosus*, *Pleuridium acuminatum*, *Polytrichum commune* and *Polytrichum juniperinum* and the liverworts *Cephaloziella divaricata*, *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Solenostoma gracillimum*, *Gymnocolea inflata* and *Isopaches bicrenatus*.

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

Mosses

<i>Amblystegium serpens</i>	Creeping feather-moss
<i>Aulacomnium androgynum</i>	Drumsticks
<i>Barbula unguiculata</i>	Bird's-claw beard-moss
<i>Brachythecium albicans</i>	Whitish feather-moss
<i>Brachythecium rutabulum</i>	Rough-stalked feather-moss
<i>Bryum argenteum</i>	Silver-moss
<i>Bryum capillare</i>	Capillary thread-moss
<i>Bryum dichotomum</i>	Bicoloured bryum
<i>Campylopus flexuosus</i>	Rusty swan-neck moss
<i>Campylopus introflexus</i>	Heath star-moss
<i>Campylopus pyriformis</i>	Dwarf swan-neck moss
<i>Ceratodon purpureus</i>	Redshanks
<i>(Cryphaea heteromalla)</i>	Lateral cryphaea
<i>Dicranella heteromalla</i>	Silky forklet-moss
<i>Dicranella howei</i>	Howe's forklet-moss
<i>Dicranoweisia cirrata</i>	Common pincushion
<i>Dicranum scoparium</i>	Broom fork-moss
<i>Didymodon fallax</i>	False beard-moss
<i>Didymodon insulanus</i>	Cylindric beard-moss
<i>Didymodon rigidulum</i>	Rigid beard-moss
<i>Fissidens bryoides</i>	Lesser pocket-moss
<i>Fissidens taxifolius</i>	Common pocket-moss
<i>Grimmia pulvinita</i>	Grey-cushioned grimmia
<i>Homalothecium sericeum</i>	Silky wall feather-moss
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i> var <i>cupressiforme</i>	Cypress-leaved plait-moss
<i>Hypnum cupressiforme</i> var <i>lacunosum</i>	Great plait-moss
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>	Heath plait-moss
<i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>	Common feather-moss
<i>(Lewinskyia affinis)</i>	Wood bristle-moss
<i>Mnium hornum</i>	Swan's-neck thyme-moss
<i>Pleuridium acuminatum</i>	Taper-leaved earth-moss
<i>Pohlia melanodon</i>	Pink-fruited thread-moss
<i>Pohlia nutans</i>	Nodding thread-moss
<i>Polytrichum commune</i>	Common haircap

<i>Polytrichum formosum</i>	Bank haircap
<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>	Juniper haircap
<i>Polytrichum piliferum</i>	Bristly haircap
<i>Pseudocrossidium hornschuchianum</i>	HornsChuck's beardmoss
<i>Pseudoscleropodium purum</i>	Neat feather-moss
<i>Rhynchosstegium confertum</i>	Clustered feather-moss
<i>Rhytidadelphus squarrosus</i>	Springy turf-moss
<i>Streblotrichum convolutum</i> var <i>convolutum</i> (<i>Syntrichia laevipila</i>)	Lesser bird's-claw beardmoss
<i>Syntrichia ruralis</i>	Small hairy screw-moss
<i>Tortula muralis</i>	Great hairy screw-moss
<i>Tortula truncata</i>	Wall screw-moss
<i>Weissia controversa</i>	Common pottia
	Green-tufted stubble-moss

Liverworts

<i>Cephalozia bicupsidata</i>	Two-horned pincer-wort
<i>Cephaloziella divaricata</i>	Common threadwort
<i>Diplophyllum albicans</i>	White earwort
(<i>Frullania dilatata</i>)	Dilated scalewort
<i>Gymnocolea inflata</i>	Inflated notchwort
<i>Isopaches birenatus</i>	Lesser notchwort
<i>Lophocolea bidenata</i>	Bifid crestwort
<i>Lophocolea heterophylla</i>	Variable-leaved crestwort
<i>Metzgeria furcata</i>	Forked veilwort
(<i>Radula complanata</i>)	Even scalewort
<i>Solenostoma gracillimum</i>	Crenulated flapwort

Bracketed species were recorded only on trees in the upper field.

Rupert Higgins and David Hawkins



Polytrichum juniperinum



Pleuridium acuminatum