

BRYOPHYTA

(General Information/Introduction)

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Bryophyta (Amphibian Plant Kingdom)

General Information/Introduction

- ❖ The name Bryophytes came from two Greek words: “Bryon” means moss and Phytion means plant
- ❖ It occupies in between thallophyta and pteridophyta in the plant Kingdom
- ❖ It includes 1237 genera and about 18,000 species (Shaw & Barnard, 2000)
- ❖ Bryophytes are the simplest and primitive embryophyta (Embryo producing plant) that first invade the land
- ❖ They are regarded as **amphibian plants** as they live both on moist and land environment but still require water for their fertilization

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- ❖ Bryophytes are not found as single plants but in groups that grow closely packed together in mats or cushions, on rocks, soil or as epiphytes on trunks and leaves of forest trees or free floating in water
- ❖ They flourish completely well in moist, humid forest, rain forest. In India they are confined mainly to Eastern and Northern Himalayas and Nilgiri and other hills.
- ❖ Bryophytes have several ecological importance. They provide seed beds for the larger plants of the community. They capture and recycle nutrients that are washed with rain water from the canopy. They bind the soil to keep it from eroding.

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- ❖ The moss *Sphagnum* has exceptional water holding capacity and when dried, forms a coal like fuel called **peat**.
- ❖ Nowadays peat lands are managed as a sustainable resource for both fuel consumption and horticultural uses

Thank you