



Let's
Find
Bryophytes



What Are Bryophytes?

Bryophytes are small plants known as mosses, liverworts and hornworts. Like other plants they make their own food by photosynthesis but **absorb water through their leaves and stems** because they don't have a true vascular system or roots. That is why they are called **non-vascular plants**. Bryophytes reproduce by spores (not seeds) and can live in different habitats such as soil, rocks, logs, underwater and can grow on stems, branches or leaves of other plants. They have an **important role in the environment** by collecting water from the air and maintaining humidity, they also provide shelter and food to other organisms.



Types of Bryophytes

Mosses



- Spirally arranged leaves
- Pointy leaves
- Green to greenish white

Liverworts



- Leafy or thallose (ribbon like)
- Leaves distichous (flat), Rounded often toothed or lobed
- Thalli dichotomously branched
- Green, brown, reddish

Hornworts



- Thallose
- Thalli rounded
- Dark green



What Aren't Bryophytes?

Not bryophytes - do not form stems or leaves

- Lichens - association between a fungus and a blue-green algae or cyanobacteria, variety of colors: white, yellow, red, orange and green
- Fungi - are not plants, do not produce their food (no photosynthesis), generally not green
- Algae - filamentous, in general have no structure