



Study of Bryophyta: Characteristics, Life Cycle and Economic Importance

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Bryophytes are small, non-vascular land plants that require water for reproduction. Land plants fall into two categories: those that have special tissues to transport water and other materials, called vascular plants; and those that do not have

specialized tissues, called non-vascular plants. Bryophytes are non-vascular, so they do not have the right types of tissues to develop roots, stems, or leaves. They don't attain great heights because of absence of roots, vascular tissues, mechanical tissues and cuticle. They are terrestrial but require external water to complete their life cycle. Hence, they are called "Amphibians of plant kingdom".

Characteristics :

Bryophytes typically measure one to two centimeters tall. They lack tissues to provide structure and support that other land plants have, so they cannot grow taller. Instead, bryophytes grow close together into a cushion-like covering over soil, rocks, tree trunks, and leaves.

Though they require water for hydration as well as reproduction, they are able to survive on land because of special adaptations. Bryophytes are covered in a waxy cuticle that helps them to retain water. As water flows through an area, it is absorbed by bryophytes. Bryophytes hold onto water like a sponge, helping creatures who depend on water for survival as well as reducing flooding in an area.

1. Bryophytes grow in damp and shady places.
2. They follow heterologous haplodiplobiontic type of life cycle.
3. The dominant plant body is gametophyte on which sporophyte is semiparasitic for its nutrition.



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