

**HANDBOOK OF MOSSES: WITH
AN ACCOUNT OF THEIR
STRUCTURE, CLASSIFICATION,
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION,
AND HABITATS**

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Handbook of Mosses: With an Account of Their Structure, Classification, Geographical Distribution, and Habitats by James E. Bagnall

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JAMES E. BAGNALL

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HANDBOOK OF MOSSES,

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*STRUCTURE, CLASSIFICATION, GEOGRAPHICAL
DISTRIBUTION, AND HABITATS.*

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PREFACE.

THIS little Essay has been written in the leisure hours of one whose every-day life is spent amid the busy hum and constant strain of a work-a-day life in a large town, with the hope that he may call the attention of others similarly situated to himself to the beauties and wonders of some of God's fairest works. The study has been to him one of constant enjoyment, has led him into many a charming spot, has given him many a much-prized friendship, has informed his mind, gladdened his heart, and gratified his eyes; and he would say to any one who is in search of objects of real interest: Study the Mosses. No objects are more readily found, for everywhere in nature you will find the Mosses. And if you desire a study which will present you with a constant supply of interesting objects—whether you take the varieties of leaf form, or notice the elegant designs of the little capsules, or study the exquisite beauty of those minute fringes which adorn the capsules of so many of our mosses, passing by degrees most gradual from the simplest to the most complicated structures, or study that most elementary of all organisms, the vegetable cell, and observe how by

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this simple organism all the thousand species and varieties of moss are built up, all diversified, and yet all alike mere cellular structures—if you desire a study which will find you employment, interesting and fascinating employment for your leisure hours the whole year round, and which, if pursued aright, will never grow wearisome, let me advise you to study the Mosses. To quote the glowing words of Ruskin, "No words that I know of will say what these Mosses are, none are delicate enough, none perfect enough, none rich enough."

In compiling these notes I have availed myself of Wilson's very excellent "Bryologia Britannica," Berkeley's "Handbook of British Mosses," Schimper's "Synopsis Muscorum Europæorum," Berkeley's "Cryptogamic Botany," Braithwaite's "Sphagnaceæ of Europe and North America," and also a very able paper by Dr. Braithwaite "On the Geographical Distribution of Mosses in Europe."

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