

Sub-Guide to "Simple" Thalloid Liverworts

Revised through 21 December 2009

Group S1 – Thallus with a distinct mid-rib & unistratose wings

Group S1

- Thalli with **hairs** on **both** surfaces **and** margins; midrib **lacking** central strand; gametangia on **ventral** branches; NW, AP *Apometzgeria*
- Thalli small (1-4 mm wide) with **hairs** on margins **only**; midrib **lacking** central strand; gametangia on **ventral** branches; WS *Metzgeria*
- Thalli larger (3-6 mm wide) **lacking** hairs; midrib with central **strand**; gametangia on **dorsal** surface of midrib; WS *Pallavicinia*

Group S2 – Thallus with indistinct midrib & gradually thinning wings

Group S2

- Thalli **subterranean, colorless or white**; parasitic on a basidiomycetous endophyte; only only mature capsules visible above the surface; GL *Cryptothallus*
- Thalli **terrestrial & green**.
Thalli **freely branched**; rhizoids few or absent; WS *Riccardia*
Thalli mostly **unbranched**.
Thalli with **thick midrib** area, **±red tinged** in sunlight; WS *Pellia*
Thalli **lacking** a distinctive midrib area, but with a distinctive **greasy** luster & feel; WS *Aneura*

Group S3 – Thallus with scalloped or wavy, irregular margins

Group S3

- Thallus margins **±regularly** lobed; flask-like **gemmae bottles** & *Nostoc* **colonies** common; WS *Blasia*
- Thallus margins **irregularly** lobed; **lacking** gemmae bottles & *Nostoc* colonies.
Thallus midrib **lighter colored**; male thalli with scattered **scales** on **both** surfaces; sporangia **spherical**; NW *Calycularia*
Thallus midrib **not** lighter colored; male thalli with **scales** mainly on midline **dorsal** surface; sporangia **cylindric**; N *Moerckia*

Group S4 – Thallus narrow with leaf-like lobes

Group S4

- Thalli **erect & fleshy** from a creeping, **rhizome-like** base; lobes **±isophyllous**; NW, ME, NH *Haplomitrium*
- Thalli with leaf-like **scales** on the dorsal surface; white **oil bodies** visible at 10x; NW *Apotreubia*
- Thalli with **involucre**s on the dorsal surface & apical **tubers**; rhizoids **colorless**; CA *Geothallus*
- Thalli **lacking** any of the above unique characters; rhizoids usually **purplish**; WS *Fossombronia*
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End.