Should mosses have common names?

Part 11. The Common Names of Hookeriales and Tetraphidales

Janice M. Glime

These two orders are not related, but both are small orders and their members lack useful properties that make them attractive to people who use mosses. Hence, the common names refer to distinctive characters in the appearance of the mosses, not to their uses.

*Hookeria* has large, somewhat transparent, shiny leaves, earning it the name of oily moss. The name of net moss and its generic name of *Cyclodictyon*, also in the Hookeriaceae, refer to the large transparent cells that give a net-like appearance. *Tetraphis* is named primarily for its four teeth, but I like the name of ant spear moss, named for its very straight seta topped with an elongate, cylindrical, pointed capsule; presumably pin moss refers to the same characteristic in *Tetrodontium*, but this moss is much smaller. Since *Tetraphis* is the only moss that has gemmae cups, it is surprising that I have found no name that refers to them.

Conventions in formatting follow Glime (1989). The meaning of the scientific name, as supplied by Elizabeth Dunham, is provided immediately after the scientific name. Any structure to which the name applies is in parentheses. Nomenclature follows Anderson, et al. (1990).

**Callicostellaceae**
*Callicostella* (C. Müll.) Mitt.: rib moss
*Callicostella pallida* (Hornsch.) Ångstr.: strong rib moss

**Hookeriaceae**
*Cyclodictyon* Mitt.: rounded-net moss
*Hookeria* sm.: oil moss; oily-glossy moss; hookeria
*Hookeria acutifolia* Hook. & Grev.: oil moss; pointed-leaf oily-glossy moss
*Hookeria lucens* (Hedw.) Sm.: shining hookeria; clear moss
*Trachyxiphium* Buck: hookeria-like moss

**Tetraphidaceae**
*Tetraphis* Hedw.: georgial; four-toothed mosses; tetraphis; four-toothed moss
*Tetraphis geniculata* Girg. ex Milde: ant-spear moss

1Department of Biological Sciences, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan 49931
Tetraphis pellucida Hedw.: four-tooth moss; pellucid tetraphis; pellucid four-tooth moss; four-toothed moss; common four-toothed moss
Tetrodontium Schwaegr.: four-toothed mosses; small four-toothed moss; pin moss
Tetrodontium brownianum (Dicks.) Schwaegr.: Mr. Brown's tetraphis; Mr. Brown's moss
Tetrodontium repandum (Funck in Sturm) Schwaegr.: small four-toothed moss; black pin moss

13 Zen Iwatsuki (personal communication)
14 Jinkun Zhang (personal communication, translated from Wu et al. 1984)

Literature Cited


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