Bryophyte flora of Switzerland

About us *www.swissbryophytes.ch*

We are the bryological research team at the Institute of Systematic Botany, University of Zurich. Since 1984, we have been working on the National Inventory of Swiss Bryophytes.

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University of Zurich[UZH]

NISM National Inventory of Swiss Bryophytes

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Associate partners *www.swissbryophytes.ch*

This project is supported by:
- Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
- Swiss Association of Bryology and Lichenology BRYOLICH
- Michael Lüth: Pictures of Mosses of Germany
- Swiss Academy of Sciences SCNAT
- Swiss Botanical Society SBG
- Swiss Systematics Society SSS

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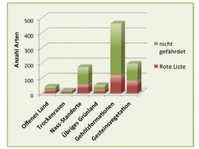
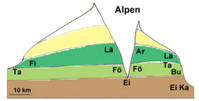
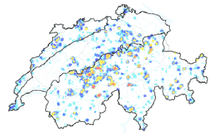
General topics *www.swissbryophytes.ch*

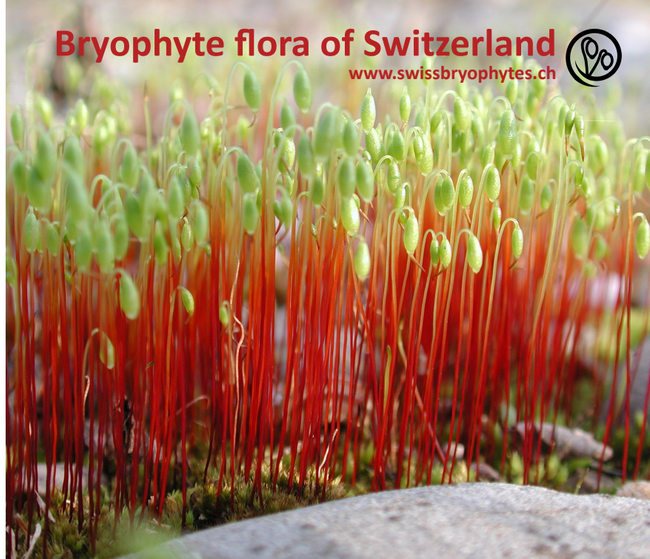






Numerous texts with general information about the project are already available on the website:

- The area covered
- Mapping project
- History of Bryology
- Why are bryophytes important?
- Diversity
- Changes in the bryoflora
- Threats and conservation
- Practical advice
- Glossary
- List of references with search function



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Project *www.swissbryophytes.ch*

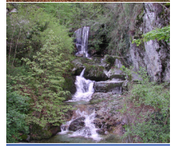
With about 1,100 species, Switzerland is a European hotspot for bryophytes. Despite this, there is no contemporary publication on the bryophytes of the country. In 2009, we launched the project „**Bryophyte Flora of Switzerland**“. In this project, all species will be presented on a website with pictures and summary information on their morphology, ecology, distribution and more. Online publication allows variable display of information and images and direct comparisons of species. These are new opportunities which are currently not available for bryophytes on a world wide scale.

Objectives of this project

- To introduce bryophytes and their features to a wider audience, including the general public
- To simplify the identification of bryophytes
- To assemble the existing knowledge on bryophytes of Switzerland and make it available more widely

Bryophyte flora of Switzerland

Ecology *www.swissbryophytes.ch*



Indicator organisms
Bryophytes provide information about the environmental conditions at the sites where they grow. They can therefore be used as indicator species. The bryophyte flora of Switzerland provides indicator values and further ecological information for each species.

Habitat lists
Bryophytes are often restricted to particular habitats. On swissbryophytes we provide lists of typical bryophyte species for 35 different habitats. Each species is illustrated with a picture.

Bryophyte flora of Switzerland

Which species is it? *www.swissbryophytes.ch*

Each bryophyte species known from Switzerland shall be described and illustrated and keys will be provided for the identification of species.

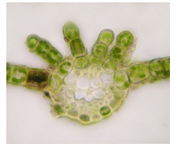
A species portrait includes:

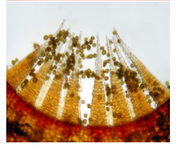
- description
- pictures
- information on ecology
- information on the distribution
- differentiation of similar species
- identification keys
- synonyms and vernacular names
- bibliography

So far, approximately 40 species have been described. As the project progresses, further species will be continuously added.

Bryophyte flora of Switzerland

Images *www.swissbryophytes.ch*





Images for species identification
Pictures are not only beautiful, but also provide an important tool for accurate identification of species. Images of microscopic characters are especially useful for the identification of bryophytes.

Images on swissbryophytes
So far, there are around 10,000 pictures of bryophytes available on the website of the Bryophyte flora of Switzerland. Our target is to provide high quality pictures of all species and to present them in a flexible way to allow visual comparison of species.