

Help us finding *Physcomitrium pyriforme*

Dear BBS members,

This is Rafael Medina, bryologist at Complutense University, Madrid. I contact you on behalf of myself and two other researchers (Bernard Goffinet and Matt Johnson, both in the United States). For a couple of years we have been working on a research project on plant genome evolution using as a model organism the moss *Physcomitrium pyriforme*. This project has benefited from the participation of many professional and amateur naturalists that have donated samples to us, we called this citizen science program PhyscoHunt. We mostly implemented it on iNaturalist, so maybe you have heard about us if you use that platform or in other bryological forums such as Bryonet, etc. Apologies for the double posting if that is the case.

PhyscoHunt was quite successful in the past years and we received many samples from naturalists in North America. However, we have hardly received any sample from Europe. Due to the pandemic, field work possibilities are even more reduced for us now. That is why in the last iteration of this campaign we are specifically targetting botanical communities and groups in this side of the Atlantic and I wanted to reach BBS directly. *Physcomitrium pyriforme* is a quite common ephemeral moss, frequent next to croplands and arable fields, sometimes also present in urban gardens and lawns. I am attaching to this message a pdf flyer we made with the specific instructions of what type of sample we need (dry samples with at least 10-12 capsules, not completely ripe). We made this flyer thinking on a wide range of people, including naturalists with little to no experience on mosses, so feel free to share it with students or your local nature groups. We are well aware that public health regulations will make field work difficult this season, but if your local conditions allow you and you want to contribute to our project, we will be very thankful.

I am also happy to answer questions, so feel free to email me.

Best regards and stay healthy

Rafa

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Not just goblet moss

You will likely find other species in the goblet moss habitats



Bonfire moss (*Funaria hygrometrica*) belongs to the same family of goblet moss, but its capsules are asymmetric and pendant, and their stalks longer



Silver bryum (*Bryum argenteum*) has a leafy generation with a whitish or silver shine that is not seen in the goblet moss colonies



Redshank (*Ceratodon purpureus*) develops spindle-like capsules with bright red stalks and calyptrae

With more than 12,000 extant species, mosses are the most diverse plant group after flowering plants, and they are key components in many ecological processes. Despite their small size, they are approachable to all nature enthusiasts

Contact info

For questions, feedback, and reports, contact Rafael Medina:

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Send your samples to our lab at Universidad Complutense de Madrid

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This document was prepared by Mary Ade and Rafael Medina

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