



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Botanic Garden

Identifying mosses & liverworts: an introduction

with **Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust**



Leicestershire
& Rutland
Wildlife Trust



Dates: 3rd & 4th December 2016

Saturday, 3rd December, 10am—4.30pm: indoor laboratory session, held in the coach house at the Botanic Garden, Oadby.

Sunday, 4th December, 10.00am—4.00pm: field excursion to Charnwood.

Fees: £50 (discount rate*: £45)

*members of LRWT or Friends of the Garden.

Teaching staff: Uta Hamzaoui (Leics. & Rutland Wildlife Trust)

Image: Kristian Peters

Booking: please contact:

Administrator, Botanic Garden, University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH

Telephone: 0116 271 2933

Email: botanicgarden@le.ac.uk

Website: www.le.ac.uk/botanicgarden

Course Director: Dr Richard Gornall (University of Leicester Botanic Garden)

www.le.ac.uk/botanicgarden

Identifying mosses & liverworts: an introduction

Mosses and liverworts are an ancient and diverse group of land plants, originating some 400 million or more years ago. They are often overlooked because they are small, but they are found almost everywhere, including in your lawn and on garden walls, and are an important part of many habitats in the countryside. Once you know a bit about them, you will want to know more. They are just waiting to be noticed and appreciated.

This course is intended to introduce you to the ways in which they may be identified. Specifically we shall teach you how to identify bryophytes in the field using a hand-lens and the recently published field guide and make identifications with confidence.

You will learn:

- how to distinguish mosses from liverworts and identify the main groups
- identify some of the commoner and more distinctive species
- how to use an identification key with confidence
- understand the structure of the plants and become familiar with the names of their parts
- how to use a hand lens
- how to use a microscope
- how to collect specimens and preserve them

Schedule

On Saturday, 3rd December, you will be taught at the Botanic Garden where you will be introduced to the wonderful world of bryophytes, including the use of the identification key and how to use lenses and microscopes. You will also have the chance to explore different parts of the Botanic Garden to see some of the plants in their habitats.

On Sunday, 4th December, the class will meet in Charnwood Lodge Nature Reserve (details to be announced) and spend the day exploring the rich flora of the area.

Students should:

- bring along the identification key (free to download at <http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/bbs/Activities/BBSFGspac.htm>)
- ideally purchase the guide *British mosses and liverworts: a field guide*. British Bryological Society (2010), which includes the key.
- bring a hand lens (x15 or x20) possibly with integrated illumination. Suggested supplier for both hand lenses and the field guide: <http://www.summerfieldbooks.com/>
- bring a packed lunch on both days
- bring Wellington Boots and rainwear on Sunday, 4th December

