

## NOTES ON OHIO MOSSES.\*

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**Bryoziphium norvegicum** (Bridel) Mitten. This moss was collected in Ohio as long ago as 1849 by Lesquereux, somewhere in the Lancaster region. In the 1863 edition of Gray's manual Sullivant says of it: "Fruit unknown. Pendent on the perpendicular faces of sandstone rocks, six miles south of Lancaster, Fairfield County, Ohio. The only other certain habitat recorded for this very interesting Moss is Iceland." As Sullivant himself was not a collector, he doubtless referred to the locality in which Lesquereux had collected the moss. Since that time this species has been collected in several other places in the United States, the only place where it has been found fruiting being the Dells of the Wisconsin, where at two different times a limited number of capsules was collected. The only specimen that has been in the State Herbarium was collected by Miss Riddle at Christmas Rocks in 1899. This moss is not uncommon on the vertical cliffs of the Black Hand sandstone in the Hocking Valley, and usually grows on the walls of the passages made by the enlarged joints in the sandstone, particularly where there are currents of cold air passing through these openings. The plants are usually small and sparsely scattered over the walls, often associated with other mosses. In one place, however, it has been recently found growing luxuriantly and the individual plants often reach a length of an inch and a half. It is rather interesting to note that this locality is six miles south of Lancaster. Perhaps it is the one referred to by Sullivant.

**Buxbaumia aphylla** Haller. A single specimen in the State Herbarium, collected in Lake County, in 1879, by Mr. H. C. Beardslee, is labeled "The first for Ohio." So far as there is any record here this is its only occurrence in the State previous to the fall of 1911. Sullivant gives its range as "New England and New York; rare," and Lesquereux and James give it "On the ground, especially of granite regions and mountains; White Mountains; Cascade Mountains, etc.," In the fall of 1911 three specimens were found along the side of a wood road near Jacob's Ladder, and in the spring and fall of 1912 numerous specimens were collected in the same locality. This new station for the species is nearly one hundred and fifty miles farther south than Beardslee's locality for it in Lake County. An interesting thing about this moss is the manner in which all the capsules point in the same direction—toward the strongest light.

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**Webera sessilis** (Schmid.) Lindb. This moss had not been represented in the State Herbarium, but about a year ago it was found at Sugar Grove and since then has been found near Christmas Rocks. The capsules of this species, like those of *Buxbaumia*, point toward the source of the light supply. Sullivant gives its habitat as "Clayey or barren soil; not unfrequent in hilly districts", while Lesquereux and James give it as "Clayey and shady sandy banks along roads". The habitat of that in the Lancaster region seems to be somewhat unusual, as in the three places where the species was collected—in two ravines at Sugar Grove, and near Christmas Rocks—the plants were growing on the vertical faces of sandstone, in one instance being associated with *Bryoziphium norvegicum*.



Fig. 1. *Buxbaumia aphylla*.

**Mnium punctatum** (Hedw.). This species has not previously been recorded in the State Herbarium, but it seems to be fairly common in the Hocking Valley. Sullivant says that it occurs in "wet places, on the ground, Alleghany Mountains", and Lesquereux and James say "Cold springs and borders of brooks, on mountains, rarely fruiting." In the Sugar Grove region it is usually found near the heads of the ravines where the water runs or trickles over the rocks, and is often associated with liverworts. In the locality where the most luxuriant growth of *Bryoziphium norvegicum* was found, *Mnium punctatum* is associated with it and grows on the vertical faces of the sandstone cliffs.

**Polytrichum piliferum** Schreb. This small *Polytrichum* is common in the Sugar Grove region and occurs on exposed ledges of the sandstone. It is often found in association with one or more of the other *Polytrichums* but grows in more exposed places than any of the others. It is a common thing to find *Polytrichum piliferum* growing in very thin dry soil on the most exposed ledges of sandstone, while a little farther back where the soil is slightly deeper *Polytrichum juniperinum* grows, and still farther back in more sheltered places, *Polytrichum commune* or *Polytrichum ohioense*. So far only sterile specimens have been collected,

but this species is easily distinguished from *Polytrichum juniperinum*, which it most nearly resembles, by its size and the long white awn-like tips to the leaves, which give the plant a hoary or grayish appearance.

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