

# The Mosses, Hornworts and Liverworts

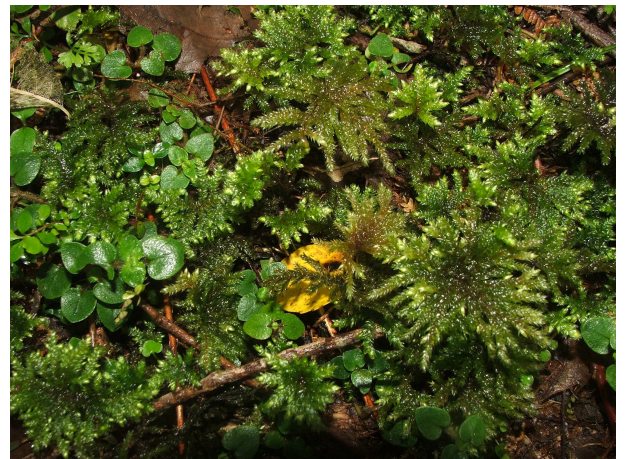
This group of plants do not have a vascular system so they transport water and nutrients between cells rather than other groups of plants that have circulatory systems. This means that they are generally smaller and less complex than other plants. New Zealand has many representatives in this group.



*Ptychomnium aciculare*



Spagnum Moss—used as a commercial crop for flower arrangements and other horticultural applications. It has natural antibiotic qualities



Umbrella Moss - *Mniodendron comosum*

Mosses, liverworts and hornworts are all Bryophytes which originated some 360 million years ago. They are an evolutionary step up from algae and are more primitive than ferns, gymnosperms and modern flowering plants. About 500 species of moss grow in New Zealand. They reproduce with spores rather than seeds and also often reproduce asexually by a part of the moss breaking off (called a brood body) and starting a new plant. This form of reproduction functions best in the damp conditions on the forest floor.