

HAMPSHIRE MOSSES.

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Hypnum cuspidatum Linn. is a moss to which all authors agree in assigning a marshy or boggy habitat. Boulay, however, in "Muscinées de la France," vol. 1, Mousses, speaks of *H. dolosum* De Not, as a contracted form of *cuspidatum*, growing in dry places, but says nothing more on the subject, nor have I any description of the plant to which I can refer. With this exception, all the writers to whose works I have access agree in saying that *H. cuspidatum* is to be found in wet localities. Here, in the dry chalky parish of Sparsholt, this moss is common enough, growing amidst grass on banks by roadsides. It abounds along the Roman road between Crabwood and Ashley, and the only time that I have found it in fruit anywhere was on a low chalky bank, close to the barrow at the corner of Westwood, anciently known as Robin Hood's Butt, as high and dry a spot as one could desire. Feeling that this was a somewhat unusual locality for this moisture-loving species, I lately sent specimens to Mr. Hobkirk, who, in replying that the moss was correctly named, adds "It is certainly a funny thing for *H. cuspidatum* to be growing in situation you name. I have never found it except in damp or boggy ground." I should be glad to hear what is the experience of Hampshire bryologists in other localities in the county, as to this point.

Another moss which is to be found in this village, not mentioned in Mr. Warner's list, given as an instalment in No. I of the Papers and Proceedings of the Hants Field Club, is *Rhyncostegium curvisetum*. The history of this little moss is somewhat confusing, and its synonymy has been the subject of controversy. It was at one time, apparently, considered by Hooker as a variety of *Hypnum tenellum* Dicks, then

included by Wilson under *H. Teesdalii* *Smith*, and since separated as a species under the name it now bears, *Rhyncostegium curvisetum* *Brid.* It appears to be the same as *Rh. litoreum* *De Not.*—*Rh. mediterraneum* *Jur.*, and *Hypnum rigidulum* *Bruch.* Mr. Hobkirk, to whom I have sent specimens, has carefully compared them with an original one of *H. rigidulum*, gathered by Bruch himself, and is satisfied that the two are identical. All authors seem to agree in assigning the same habitat to this moss, viz., "stones and rocks near streams," and once more, as in the case of *Hypnum cuspidatum*, its home in this village seems to be unusual. It is, as far as I have observed, always to be found growing on roots of trees and bushes in close proximity with the ground, and of course far from anything like streams, of which we are quite destitute; never on stones; while *Rhyncostegium tenellum*, to which it bears considerable resemblance, occurs on flints, often in the same hedges. My experience of this moss is the same in Italy, where I gathered it last February, a few miles from Viareggio, at the root of a tree in the Pine Forest. Professor Arcangeli of Pisa, to whom I submitted specimens, named them *Rh. litoreum* *De Not.*, which as I have observed above is considered a synonym for *Rh. curvisetum* *Brid.* *Hypnum Teesdalii* *Smith*, Eng. Bot. t. 202, is probably this species, which it represents fairly well, and the plate was taken, it is stated, from a plant growing on a tree at Matlock-Bath, though Wilson says that "the habitat on trees near Matlock wants confirmation." If the statement is correct it is the only mention of it I am acquainted with as growing on trees. At any rate there is plenty of it here growing in such a position, and probably it may be common elsewhere, though by reason of its small size and likeness to *Rh. tenellum*, it may be often overlooked or taken for that species.
