

Grimmia Identification Workshop

Grimmia, AARRRGH! Few mosses are more infamous for species id problems than this tough and nasty group of desert dwellers! After almost two decades of working on this rotten group of critters I now realize that the key to naming species is to forget about using keys - as much as possible. Rather I break down the genus into four rather easily recognizable groups and then use a series of tables for species identification. With power point I'll show you the key characters and their various character states that you will need to know to break down Grimmia into manageable groups. Then as a group we'll power point our way through some practice species identifications. We'll do 2-4 species in each of the subgroups. Following this demo we will break out into groups and do some hands on identifications of specimens and slides that I will bring.

There are only going to be about five pairs of stereo and compound scopes available so you are strongly advised to bring your own scopes and dissecting kits, razor blades hot plates etc. Also, please feel free to bring your own specimens of Grimmia to practice on.

I'll be providing each participant with a set of tables and a new key to Grimmia that updates what Henk Greven and I wrote for the BFNA.

If you plan to attend this seminar please contact me at roxanne.hastings@gov.ab.ca by the end of June, preferably earlier – we may limit enrolment. The seminar will be on Tuesday afternoon, July 15.

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