

Morphological Features of Section Subsecunda (*Sphagnophyceae* /*Bryophyta*) in Turkey

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Aim of the study: Bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts), being the second largest group among plants, have an important place in our country's biodiversity with approximately 1000 taxa. Within this large group, the genus *Sphagnum*, also known as peat moss, has a special important role because of ecological and economical importance. The diagnosis of *sphagnum* is difficult due to the wide variation range. Our aim is to reveal the variation intervals of the taxa belonging to the section subsecunda with spread in Turkey.

Material and Methods: Materials of this study were collected between 2013-2016 during the revisional project on Turkish *Sphagnum* supported by TÜBİTAK (TBAG, grant no. 113Z631). All the characters (morphology, color, capitula, leaves, stem, cells, sporophytic characters ect.) used in the diagnosis for each plant were evaluated and numerical taxonomy was made by taking the arithmetic average.

Results: The genus *Sphagnum* represented by 23 taxa in our country, is studied under 7 sections. The subsecunda section is normally differ in the frequent to abundant small, ringed pores along the commissures on the abaxial leaf surface and the absence of large, unringed pores from the adaxial. The branch leaves, at least when flattened, are broader than those in the Cuspidata and the photosynthetic cells differ in shape and position. There are 5 taxa in this section which are *S. subsecundum*, *S. inundatum*, *S. auriculatum*, *S. platyphyllum* and *S. contortum*.

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