

POLYTRICHACEAE – HAIR CAP MOSS FAMILY

Plant: moss (tend to be larger and more noticeable than most mosses)

Stem: mostly erect

Root: rhizoids (no root)

Leaves: mostly narrowly lanceolate (although quite variable), spirally arranged on stem, lamellae along leaf nerves, often with toothed leaf margins, leaves sharp pointed, most have a hyaline basal sheath

Flowers: dioecious; gametophyte (leafy) with sporophyte born at tip of gametophyte (gametophyte generation dimorphic); sporophyte – setae often long and solitary, capsule 2 to 6 angled (shape variable), calyptra usually of matted or felted hair, single row of (16?) 32 or 64 teeth on peristome

Fruit:

Other: forms mats or patches; common throughout NA and CAN (not found in some southwest states); prefers acidic conditions

Genera: 22+ genera

***** species descriptions are general - for full ID see professional texts for full descriptions (sometimes microscopic details are necessary)**

POLYTRICHACEAE – HAIR CAP MOSS FAMILY

Common Hair Cap [Polytrichum] Moss; *Polytrichum commune* Hedw.

A Polytrichum (Hair Cap) Moss; *Polytrichum piliferum* Hedw.

Common Hair Cap [Polytrichum] Moss

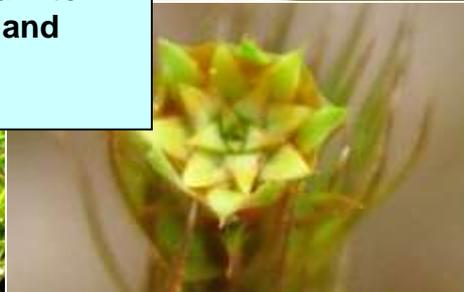
Polytrichum commune Hedw.

Polytrichaceae (Hair Cap Moss Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: antheridia (male) rosettes greenish yellow; seta yellowish brown to red, calyptra of yellowish to brownish hair, capsule rectangular to somewhat cubic; leaves erect to spreading, tips recurved, finely toothed from base to tip, large clasping sheath, awn short; plants medium to tall, in mats or clumps in moist areas; most of NA and CAN except some southwestern states ; spring

[V Max Brown, 2009]



A *Polytrichum* (Hair Cap) Moss

Polytrichum piliferum Hedw.

Polytrichaceae (Hair Cap Moss Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: antheridia (male) rosettes red resembling flowers; seta dark red, calyptra of white to light brown hair, capsule somewhat cubic; leaves erect to in-curved, linear lanceolate, smooth, thick and turgid, tipped by a long hyaline awn; plants small to medium, in mats or clumps, in well drained areas; most of NA and CAN except some southern states; spring

[V Max Brown, 2009]

