

Comparative table: Common features distinguishing bryophytes, ferns and lichens

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	Bryophytes	Lichens	Ferns & Allies
Growth Habit	A. Thalloid liverwort; B. Leafy liverwort; C. Thallose of a hornwort; D. Spiral leaf arrangement of moss.	A. Filamentose (hair-like); B. Fruticose (branching); C. Foliose (leaf-like); D. Crustose (paint-like)	A. Tree fern; B, C, frond of Blechnum (B) and <i>Sellaginella</i> sp. (C)
Major Structures	A. Moss with "nerve" in middle of leaf; B. Liverwort (ventral view) showing leaf lobes and inflated lobule	Foliose lichen with leaf-like thallus and brown apothecia (spore-producing bodies)	A. Simple pinnae (leaflet) of <i>Pyrrosia</i> ; B. Scales; C. Rhizome of <i>Aglaoomorpha</i> (Bears foot fern)
Anatomy	A. Liverwort cell trigones & oil bodies; B. Moss leaf section; C. Cyanobacteria colony of hornwort	Cross section of thallous with algae layer (arrow)	Cross section of rachis leaf showing the vascular tissue of a true fern
Reproduction	A. Moss peristome tooth; B. Liverwort gemmae (asexual propagules); C. Hornwort sporophyte.	Most lichens have spore-producing bodies, the most common is the disc-shaped apothecia	A. Circular sori of <i>Microsorum</i> ; B. Margin of <i>Adiantum</i> ; C. Elongate sori of <i>Asplenium</i> .