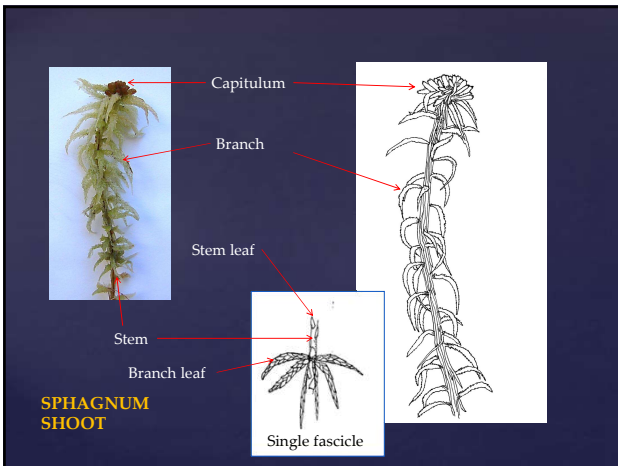
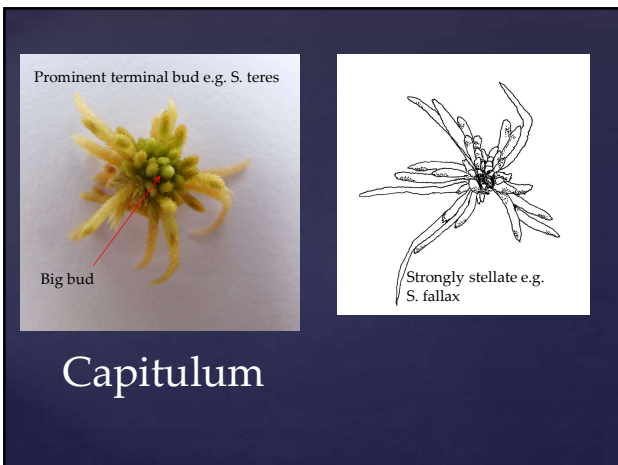




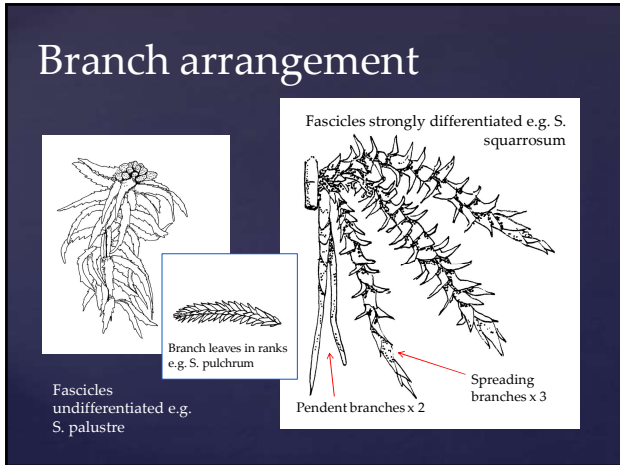
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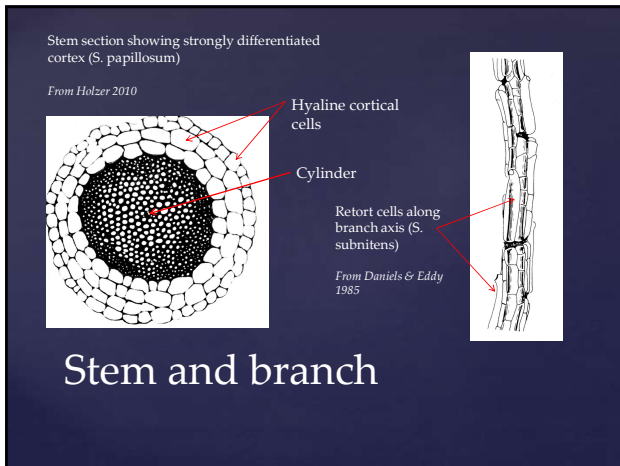
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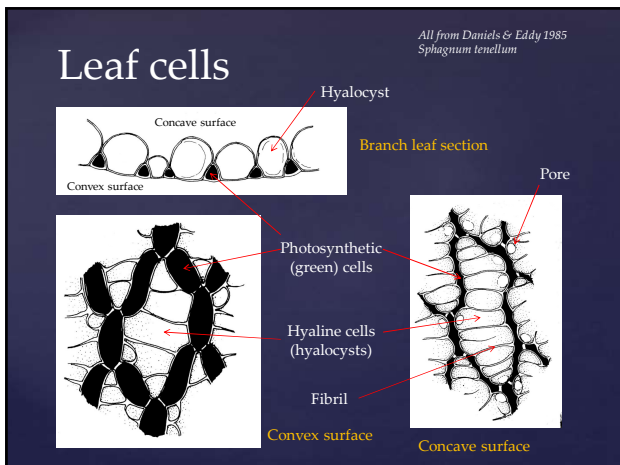
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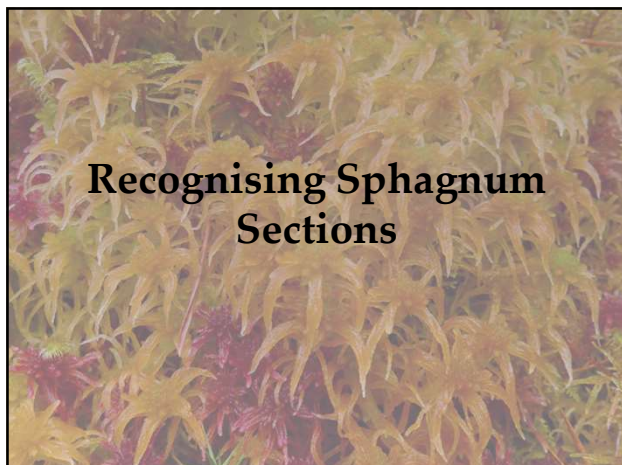
4



5



6



7



Sections (subgenera)

- Sphagnum – 6 species
- Acutifolia – 12 species
- Rigida – 2 species
- Squarrosa – 2 species
- Cuspidata – 11 species
- Subsecunda – 5 species

= 38 species

British Sphagnum sections

8

Section Sphagnum




Field characters:

- Plants always robust
- Broad, hooded branch leaves
- Stem cortex > 1/3 stem diameter

Other characters:

- Cortical cells of branches have spiral fibrils
- Branch leaf apices are minutely rough (resorption furrows)
- No retort cells

Both from Holzer 2010



S. palustre with S. fallax

S. palustre

- S. palustre
- S. papillosum
- S. medium
- S. divinum (scarce)
- S. affine (scarce)
- S. austinii (scarce)

9

Section Cuspidata

Field characters:


- Very variable
- Often green or with mustard colours
- Capitula often stellate
- Stem leaves hanging or spreading (not erect)

Other characters:

- Branches have large retort cells


12 species. *S. fallax*, *S. angustifolium* and *S. flexuosum* form the so-called *Sphagnum recurvum complex* and look very similar.

S. tenellum is immediately identifiable due to its small size and divergent branch leaves.



S. tenellum divergent branch apex

S. tenellum
S. pulchrum (scarce)
S. balticum (rare)
S. lindbergii (rare)
S. riparium (rare)
S. majus (rare)
S. cuspidatum
S. fallax
S. angustifolium
S. flexuosum
S. obtusum (extinct)



S. flexuosum

13

Section Subsecunda

Field characters:

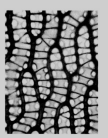
- Branches are often curved to one side (*cow's horns*)
- Plants often have yellow, orange or brown pigments

Other characters:


- Branch leaves have numerous small ringed pores along the edge of hyalocysts

6 species. Note that *S. inundatum* and *S. auriculatum* are very variable and cannot always be easily separated.

S. contortum (scarce)
S. subsecundum (scarce)
S. inundatum
S. auriculatum
S. platyphyllum (rare)



S. auriculatum



S. auriculatum

14
