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Cryptogam of the Month –November 2008



Photograph by R. Robinson

Phaeoceros carolinianus

Phaeoceros carolinianus is a commonly found species of liverwort that grows in the wetter forested portion of the southwest. Usually found on soils as a dense green thallus mats or seen occasionally on rotting logs. The development of the spore bearing structure (capsules) and the yellow powdery spores make this species easy to recognise in the field. The spores develop usually takes place in late spring to early summer as the moisture levels begin to fall. In the non fruiting stage it is easy to confuse this species with other thalline liverworts.

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