

Thallophyte

The **thallophytes** (**Thallophyta** or **Thallobionta**) are a polyphyletic group of non-mobile organisms traditionally described as "thalloid plants", "relatively simple plants" or "lower plants". These plants mainly grow in water. They were a defunct division of kingdom Plantae that included fungus, lichens and algae and occasionally bryophytes, bacteria and the Myxomycota. Thallophytes have a hidden reproductive system and hence they are also called Cryptogamae (together with ferns), as opposed to Phanerogamae. The thallophytes are defined as having undifferentiated bodies (thalli), as opposed to cormophytes (Cormophyta) with roots and stems.



Lichens are some of the organisms included in several definitions of the Thallophyte group.

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Definitions

Several different definitions of the group have been used.

Stephan Endlicher, a 19th-century Austrian botanist, separated the vegetable kingdom into the thallophytes (algae, lichens, fungi) and the cormophytes (including bryophytes and thus being equivalent to Embryophyta in this case) in 1836.^{[1][2]} This definition of Thallophyta is approximately equivalent to Protophyta, which has always been a loosely defined group^[3].

In the Lindley system (1830–1839), Endlicher's cormophytes were divided into the thallogens (including the bryophytes), and cormogens ("non-flowering" plants with roots), as well as the six other classes. Cormogens were a much smaller group than Endlicher's cormophytes^[4] including just the ferns (and Equisetopsida) and the plants now known as lycopodiophytes.

Thallophyta is a division of the plant kingdom including primitive forms of plant life showing a simple plant body. Including unicellular to large algae, fungi, lichens.^[5]

The first ten phyla are referred to as thallophytes. They are simple plants without roots stems or leaves.^[6]

Subdivisions

The Thallophyta have been divided into two subdivisions.^[7]

- Myxothallophyta (myxomycetes)
- Euthallophyta (bacteria, fungi, lichens, algae)

The term Euthallophyta was originally used by Adolf Engler.^[8]

See also

- [Pteridophyte](#)
- [Cormophyte](#)
- [Cryptogam](#)
- [List of systems of plant taxonomy](#)
- [Non-vascular plant](#)

References

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