

# Plant Diversity

Ch 30

- From Sea to Land
- Origins, Relationships, Diversity
- Shared Derived Traits  
(Synapomorphies)
- Nonvascular to Vascular Plants
- Seedless to Seeds



Videos 28-3, 28-5



03 March 2009  
ECOL 182R UofA  
K. E. Bonine



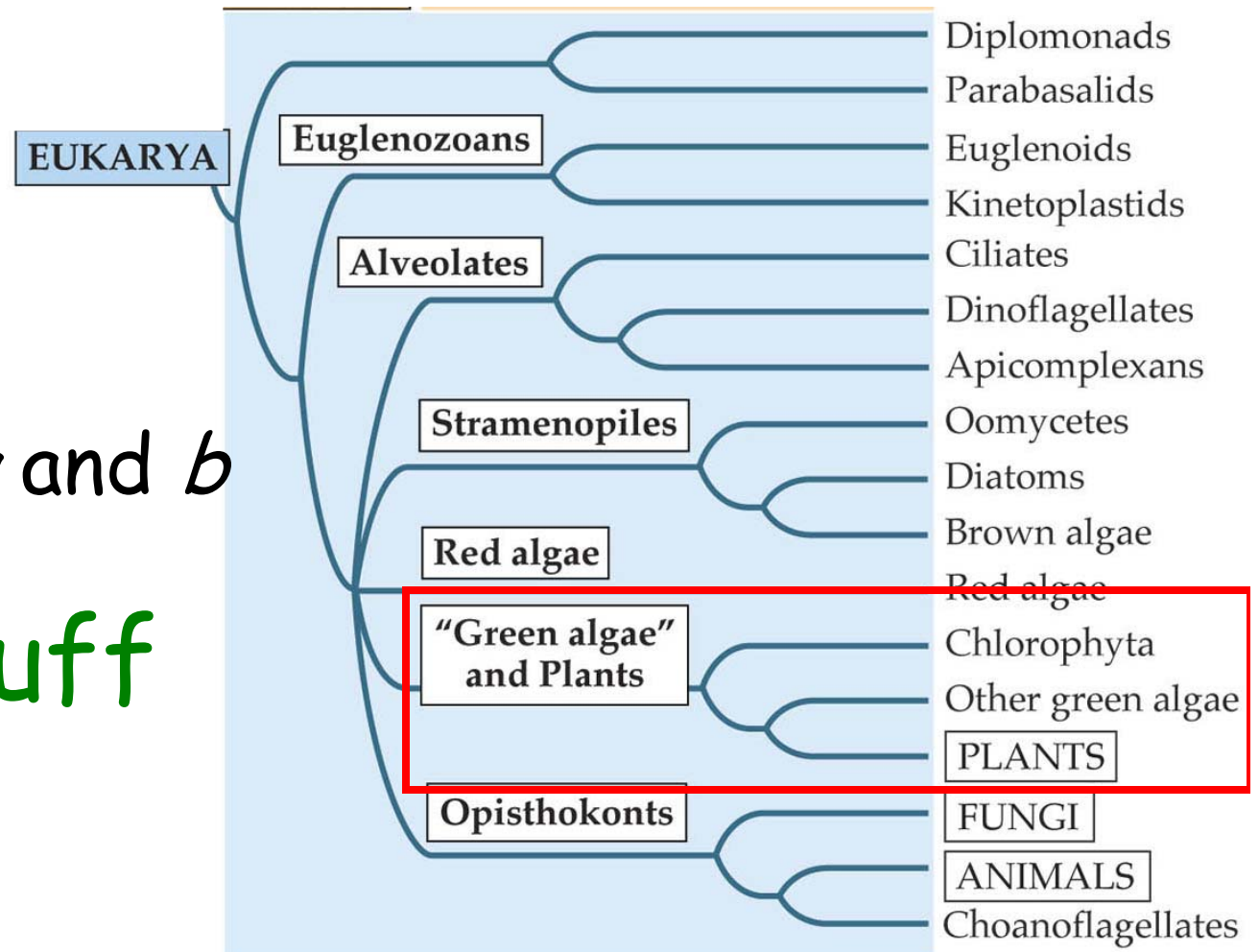


# The Evolution of Land Plants

(from the edge of the swamp...)

• chlorophylls *a* and *b*

Green stuff

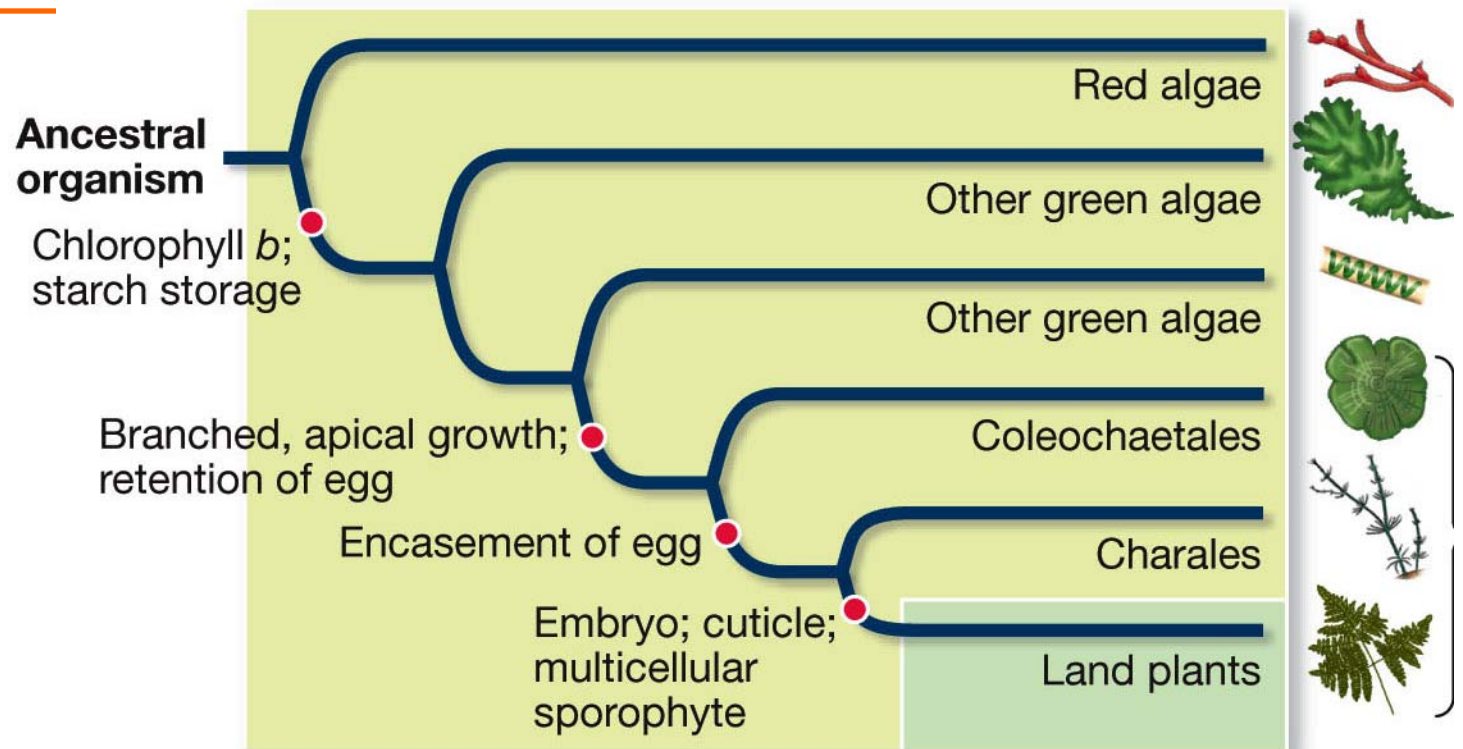




# Original Land Plants Related to Algae

Land plants retain derived features they share with **green algae (*Charales*)**:  
and

as a storage product.  
in cell walls.





# Land Plants are Monophyletic

Land plants are **monophyletic**, all descend from a single common ancestor.

One **synapomorphy**: development from an **embryo protected** by tissues of the parent plant. Therefore, also called **embryophytes**.

(*phyton* = plant)



# Land Plants Comprise ~Ten Clades

## Nonvascular (3 clades)

- paraphyletic group
- liverworts,
- hornworts
- mosses



## Vascular plants, or *tracheophytes*

(7 clades)—all have conducting cells called -tracheids.

- monophyletic group



# Moving to Land

Plants first appeared on land between  
400-500 million years ago.

## Environmental Challenges:

- 1.
2. transport to all parts
3. (fight gravity)
4. disperse .

Some challenges met immediately,  
others took millions of years



# Biological history

## 22.1 Earth's Geological History (Part 2)

RELATIVE TIME SPAN	ERA	PERIOD	ONSET	MAJOR EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF LIFE
Precambrian	Cenozoic	Quaternary	1.8 mya <sup>a</sup>	Humans evolve; many large mammals become extinct
		Tertiary	65 mya	Diversification of birds, mammals, flowering plants, and insects
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous	144 mya	Dinosaurs continue to diversify; flowering plants and mammals diversify. <b>Mass Extinction</b> at end of period ( $\approx 76\%$ of species disappear)
		Jurassic	206 mya	Diverse dinosaurs; radiation of ray-finned fishes
		Triassic	248 mya	Early dinosaurs; first mammals; marine invertebrates diversify; first flowering plants; <b>Mass Extinction</b> at end of period ( $\approx 65\%$ of species disappear)
	Paleozoic	Permian	290 mya	Reptiles diversify; amphibians decline; <b>Mass Extinction</b> at end of period ( $\approx 96\%$ of species disappear)
		Carboniferous	354 mya	Extensive "fern" forests; first reptiles; insects diversify
		Devonian	417 mya	Fishes diversify; first insects and amphibians. <b>Mass Extinction</b> at end of period ( $\approx 75\%$ of species disappear)
		<u>Silurian</u>	443 mya	Jawless fishes diversify; first ray-finned fishes; plants and animals colonize land
		Ordovician	490 mya	<b>Mass Extinction</b> at end of period ( $\approx 75\%$ of species disappear)
		Cambrian	543 mya	Most animal phyla present; diverse algae
	Precambrian		600 mya	Ediacaran fauna
			1.5 bya <sup>a</sup>	Eukaryotes evolve; several animal phyla appear
			3.8 bya	Origin of life; prokaryotes flourish
			4.5 bya	

Plants first appeared on land between 400-500 million years ago.

<sup>a</sup>mya, million years ago; bya, billion years ago.



# Biological history

		1	2	3	4	5
		Earth forms		Origin of Life		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Oldest fossils					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Photo-synthesis evolves					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Eukary- otic cells				Multi-cellular		
27	28	29	30			
Abundant life						



**Moss**

27	28	29	30
Aquatic life	First land plants	Forests Insects	Birds
Abundant fossils	First land animals	First mammals Dinosaurs dominant	Flowering plants Rise of Mammals

First hominids

*Homo sapiens*



# Adaptations for Land

## 1. Cuticle

- waxy covering that retards water

## 2. Gametangia enclosing gametes

## 3. Embryos in a protective structure

## 4. Pigments that protect against UV radiation

## 5. Spore walls containing sporopollenin

- resists desiccation and

## 6. Mutualistic relationships with fungus

- to promote \_\_\_\_\_ from soil



# Plants Help Create Soil

Ancient plants contributed to soil formation.

Acids secreted by plants help break down rock.

Organic material from dead plants contributes to soil structure.

Create habitat and pave way for succession of other species.

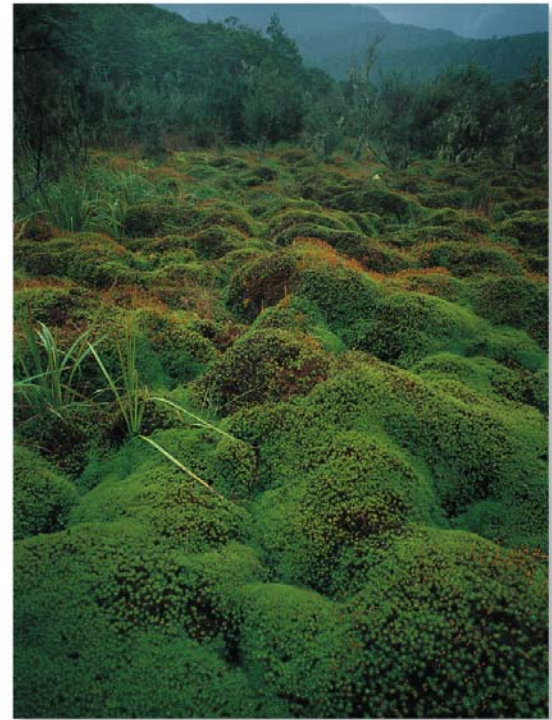


# Nonvascular Plants Are Similar to Ancestral Land Plants

Today's nonvascular plants are thought to be similar to the first land plants.

They grow in moist environments in dense mats

They are small, there is no system to conduct water from soil to plant body parts.



mosses



# Traits of Nonvascular Plants

Growth pattern of nonvascular plants allows water to move through mats by **capillary action**.

Minerals can be distributed through the small plants by **diffusion**.

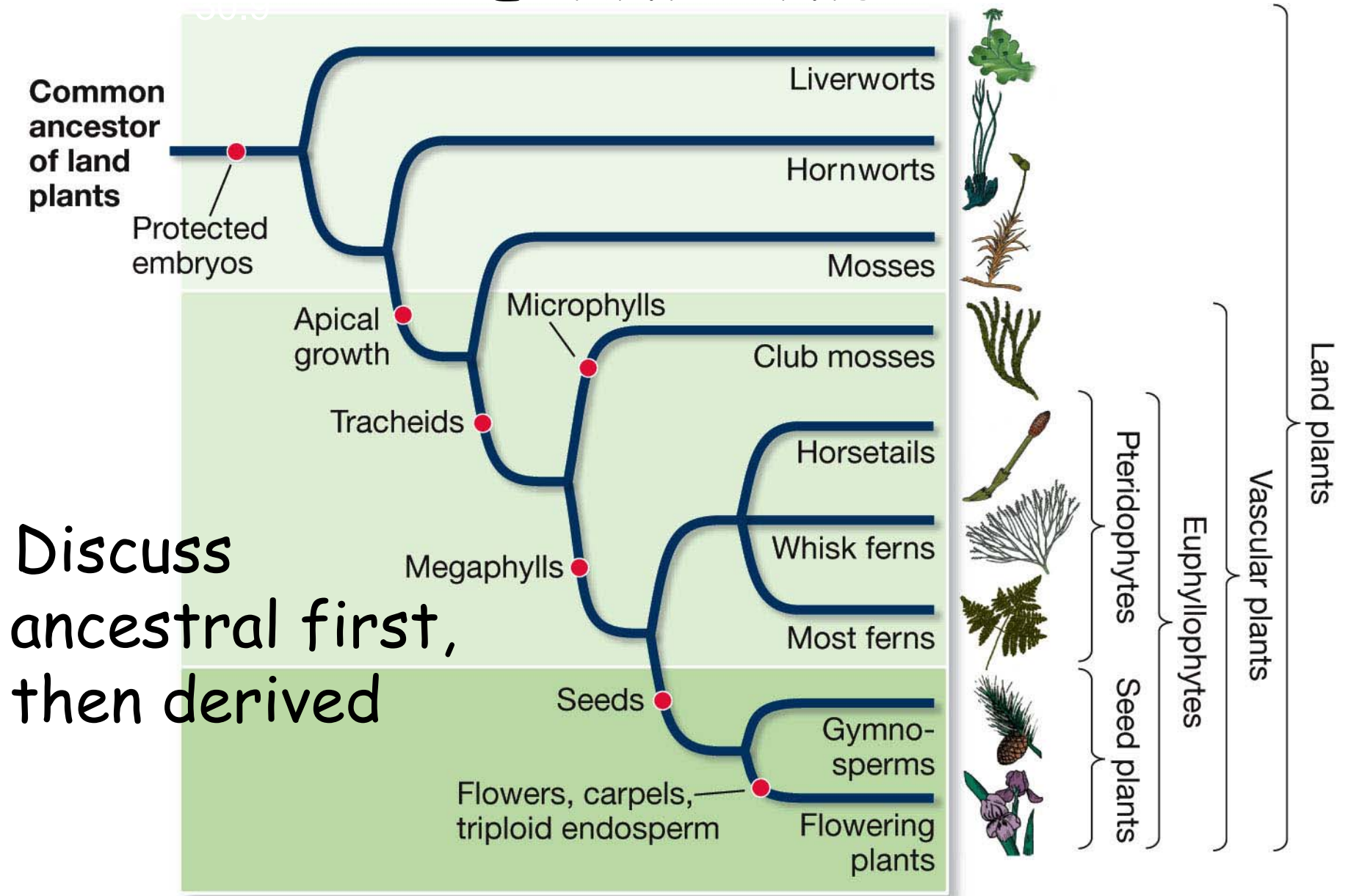
**Mutualistic** relationship with fungi called **glomeromycetes** which promote absorption of water and minerals.



mosses



# Extant Plants



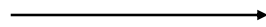
Discuss  
ancestral first,  
then derived



# Three Nonvascular Clades

(paraphyletic group)

Liverworts



(C) *Marchantia* sp.

Hornworts



*Anthoceros* sp.

Mosses



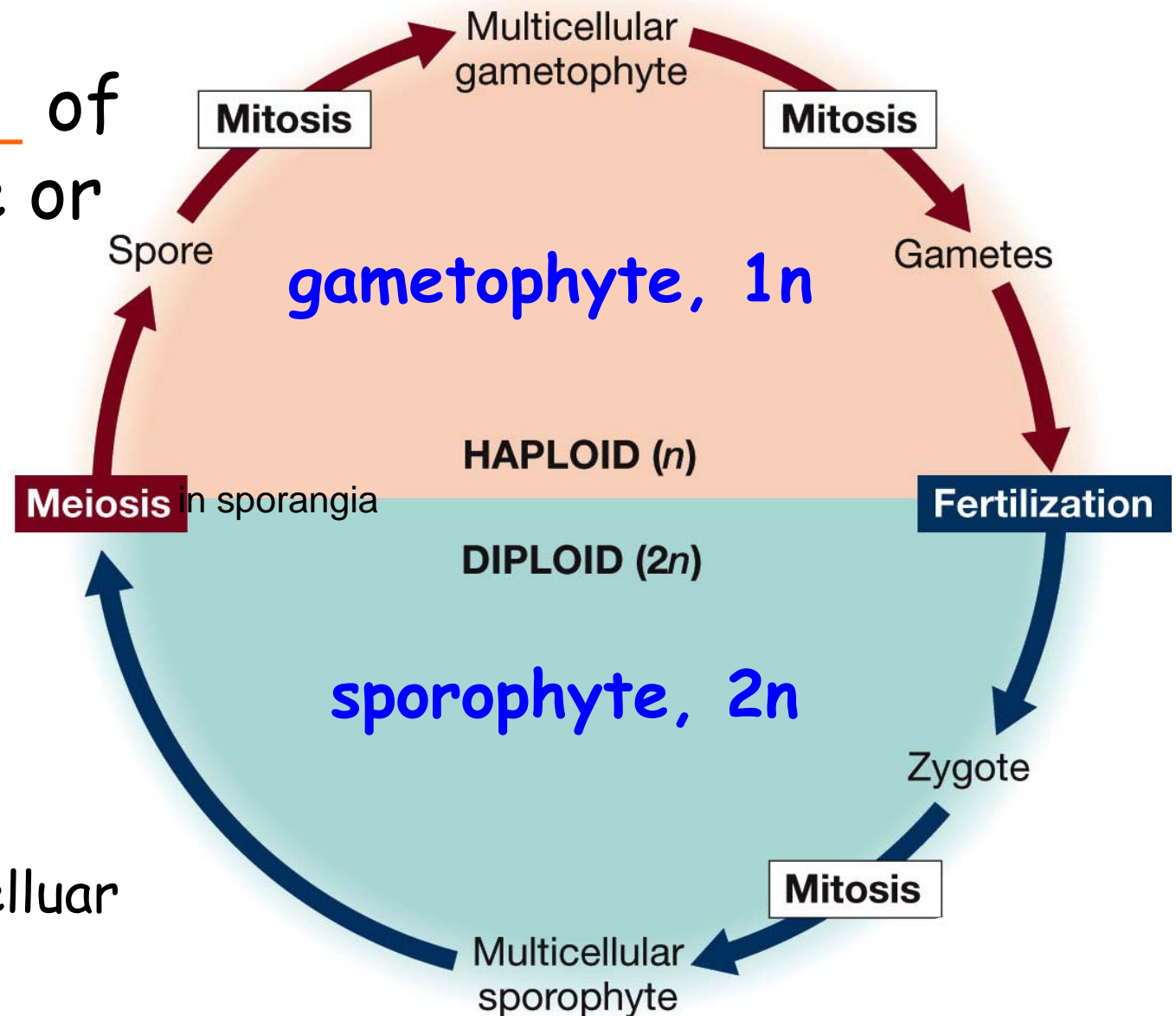


# Alternation of Generations

and

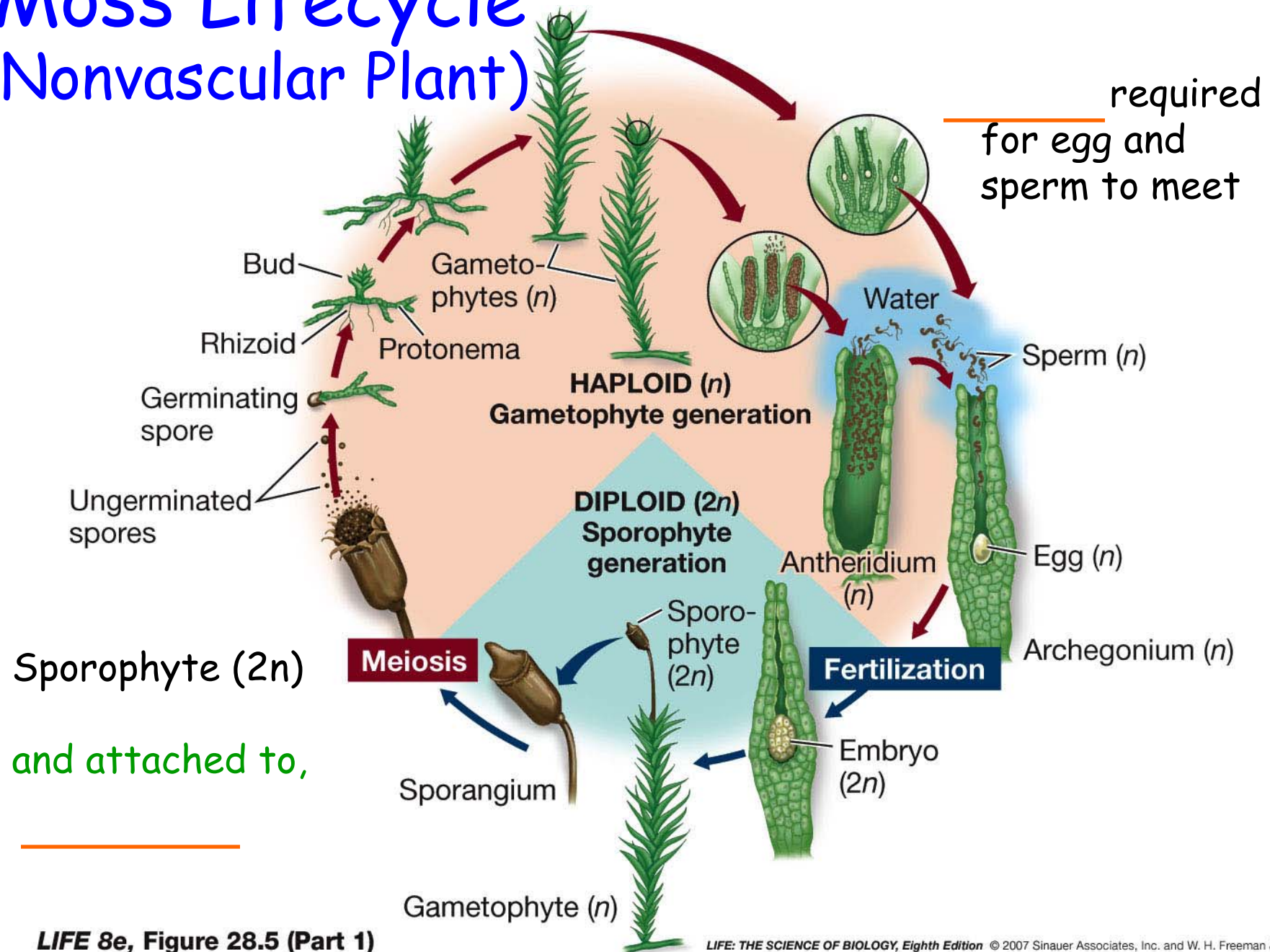
of  
gametophyte or  
sporophyte  
changes

All plants have  
alternation of  
generations  
(= multicellular  
haploid & multicellular  
diploid)





# Moss Lifecycle (Nonvascular Plant)



**LIFE 8e, Figure 28.5 (Part 1)**



# Nonvascular: Gametophyte Dominates

In nonvascular plants:

gametophyte is **larger**, longer-lived, and more self-sufficient than the sporophyte.

gametophyte generation is \_\_\_\_\_ .

sporophyte may or may not be photosynthetic, but is always nutritionally **dependent** on the gametophyte, and is permanently attached.

\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ generation is a major theme in plant evolution.



# Nonvascular Plant Reproduction

Male: **antheridium**



Antheridium ( $n$ )

Female: **archegonium**



Egg ( $n$ )

Archegonium ( $n$ )



# Nonvascular Plant Reproduction

Base of archegonium grows to  
protect embryo during early  
development.

(land plants aka embryophytes)



# Nonvascular Diversity

**Hornworts:** Anthocerophyta—100 species.

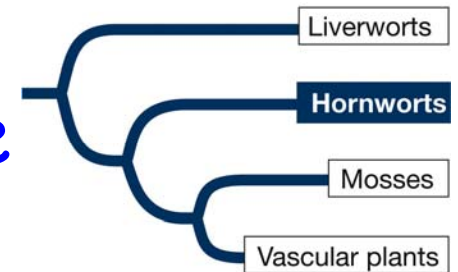
Gametophytes are flat plates of cells.

Have **stomata**, which **do not close**.

Hornwort cells have a **single, large chloroplast**.

The sporophyte has no stalk; but has a basal region capable of infinite cell division. Sporophytes can grow **up to 20 cm**.

Hornworts have internal cavities filled with **nitrogen-fixing cyanobacteria**.





# Life cycle of a moss



Video  
28-3

Mosses are group to plants



# Moss...

*Sphagnum* grows in swampy places.

The upper layers of moss compress lower layers that are beginning to decompose, forming *peat*.

Long ago, continued compression led to the formation of \_\_\_\_\_.





**LIFE 8e, Figure 28.15**





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Navajo Power Plant, Page, AZ



# Paleozoic: Carboniferous

- Large glaciers and swamp forests of treeferns and horsetails.

- Fossilized forests formed the  
we now  
mine for





# Vascular Plants Arose from Nonvascular

Recently, fossilized fragments of ancient liverworts have been discovered.



# Vascular Plants Comprise Seven Clades

10 clades of land plants:

Nonvascular (3 clades)

- liverworts, hornworts, and mosses
- paraphyletic group

**Vascular** plants, or *tracheophytes*  
(7 clades)

- conducting cells called **tracheids**.
- monophyletic** group





# Seedless Vascular Plants

**TABLE 28.1**

## Classification of Land Plants

GROUP	COMMON NAME	CHARACTERISTICS
<b>NONVASCULAR PLANTS</b>		
1 Hepatophyta	Liverworts	No filamentous stage; gametophyte flat
2 Anthocerophyta	Hornworts	Embedded archegonia; sporophyte grows basally (from the ground)
3 Bryophyta	Mosses	Filamentous stage; sporophyte grows apically (from the tip)
<b>VASCULAR PLANTS</b>		
4 Lycophyta	Club mosses and allies	Microphylls in spirals; sporangia in leaf axils
5 Pteridophyta	Horsetails, whisk ferns, ferns	Differentiation between main stem and side branches (overtopping growth)
<b>SEED PLANTS</b>		
Gymnosperms		
6 Cycadophyta	Cycads	Compound leaves; swimming sperm; seeds on modified leaves
7 Ginkgophyta	Ginkgo	Deciduous; fan-shaped leaves; swimming sperm
8 Gnetophyta	Gnetophytes	Vessels in vascular tissue; opposite, simple leaves
9 Coniferophyta	Conifers	Seeds in cones; needle-like or scale-like leaves
10 Angiosperms	Flowering plants	Endosperm; carpels; gametophytes much reduced; seeds within fruit

*Note:* No extinct groups are included in this classification.



# Traits of Vascular Plants

The **vascular system** consists of tissue specialized for the transport of materials.

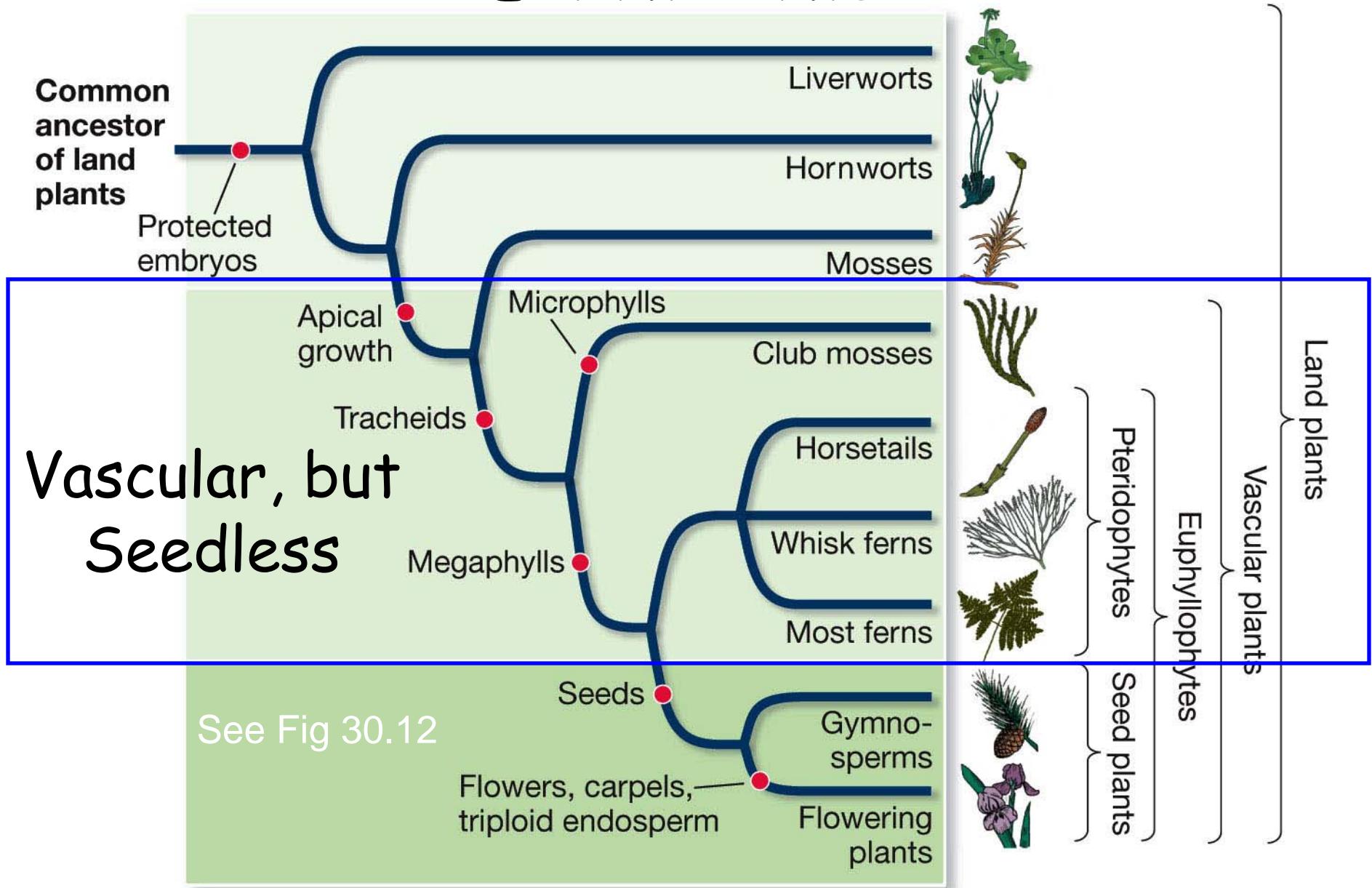
                     conducts water and minerals from soil up to aerial parts of plant. Some cells have *lignin*—provides **support**.

**Tracheids** are the main water-conducting element in xylem. Angiosperms have tracheids plus a more efficient system of vessels and fibers.

                     conducts products of photosynthesis through plant.



# Extant Plants



**LIFE 8e, Figure 28.7**



# Evolution of Vascular Plants

Vascular plants have a branching,

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Mature sporophyte is **nutritionally independent** from the gametophyte.

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**Still must have water** for part of the life cycle—for the flagellated, swimming sperm.



# Evolution of Vascular Plants

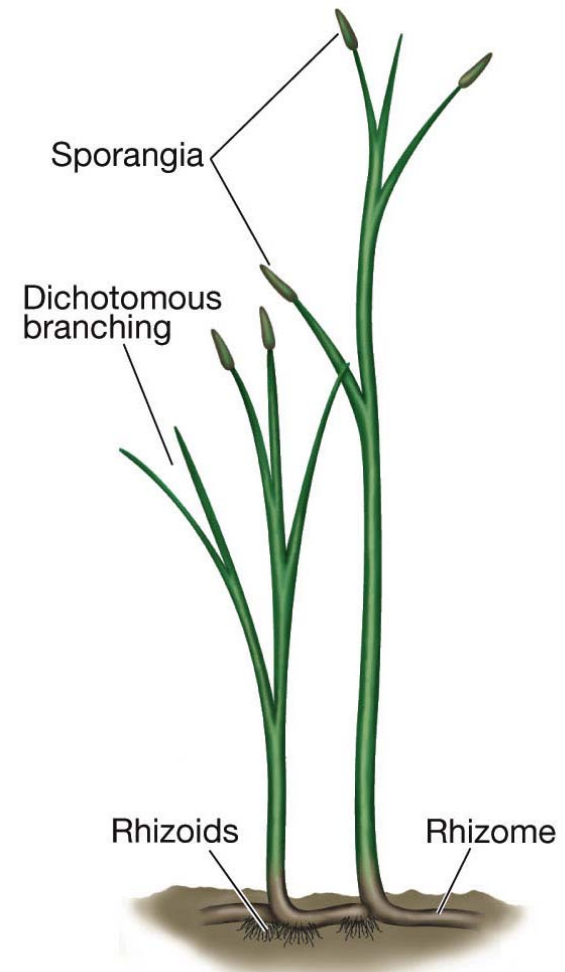
Earliest vascular plants (now extinct):

**Rhyniophytes** (Silurian) had dichotomous branching, but lacked leaves and roots.

They were anchored by **rhizomes** (horizontal portions of stem) and **rhizoids** (water-absorbing filaments).

Earliest vascular plants

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LIFE: THE SCIENCE OF BIOLOGY, Eighth



# Evolution of Vascular Plants

**Lycophytes** appeared in the Silurian.

**Pteridophytes** appeared in the Devonian.

These groups had true roots and leaves, and two types of spores.

**Overtopping** evolved --new branches grow beyond the others—an advantage in the competition for light



# Evolution of Vascular Plants

*Leaf*: a flattened photosynthetic structure arising from a stem or branch; has true vascular tissue.

Two types: microphylls and megaphylls.



# Evolution of Leaves

Small megaphylls first appeared in the Devonian. Large megaphylls did not appear until the Carboniferous.

One theory: high  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations in the Devonian prevented development of *stomata*.

Stomata allow heat to be lost by the evaporation of water. Large leaves with no stomata would have resulted in





# Evolution of Vascular Plants

**Horsetails:** Fifteen species  
in one genus—*Equisetum*.  
Silica in cell walls—"scouring  
rushes."

Have true roots

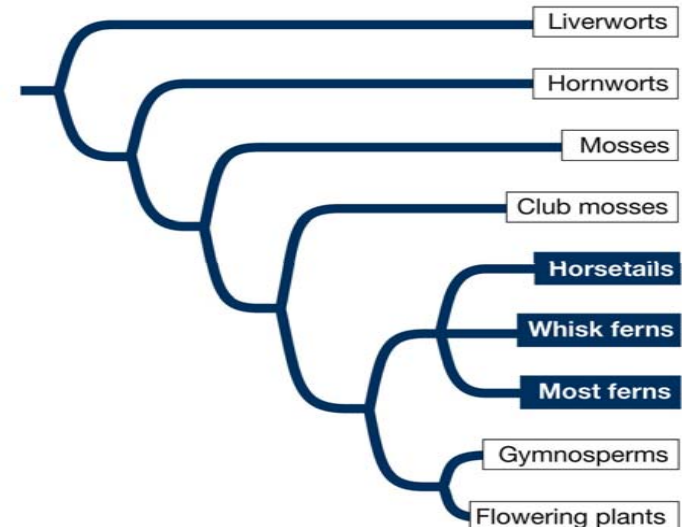




Figure 28.17 Horsetails



*Equisetum arvense*



*Equisetum palustre*



# Evolution of Vascular Plants

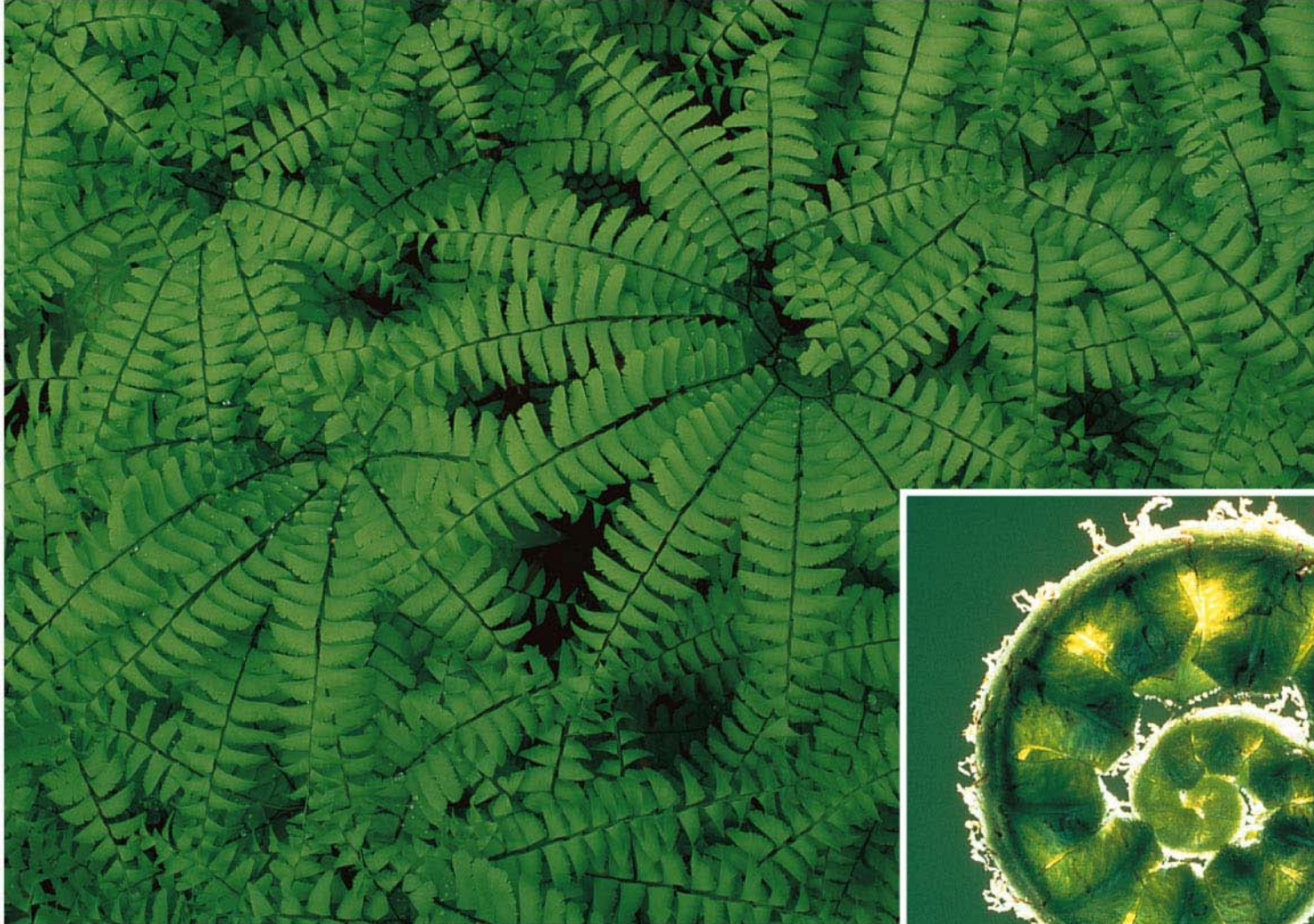
**Ferns:** 12,000 species. About 97 percent are in a clade—leptosporangiate ferns—sporangia walls only one cell thick, borne on a stalk.

Sporophytes have true roots, stems, and leaves.



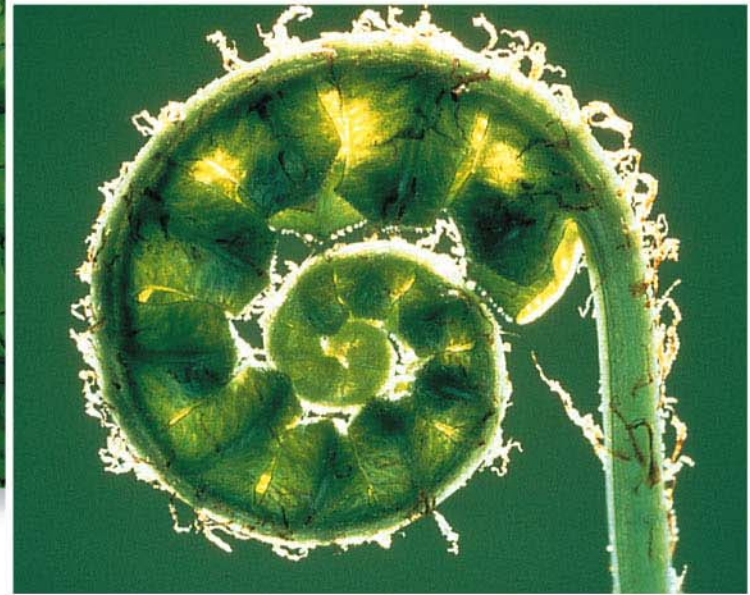
## Figure 28.19 Fern Leaves Take Many Forms

(A)



*Adiantum pedatum*

(B)



**LIFE 8e, Figure 28.19 (Part 1)**



# Ferns...

Most ferns are in *shaded, moist* environments.

*Tree ferns* can reach heights of 20 m.

Sporangia occur on undersides of leaves in clusters called *sori*.

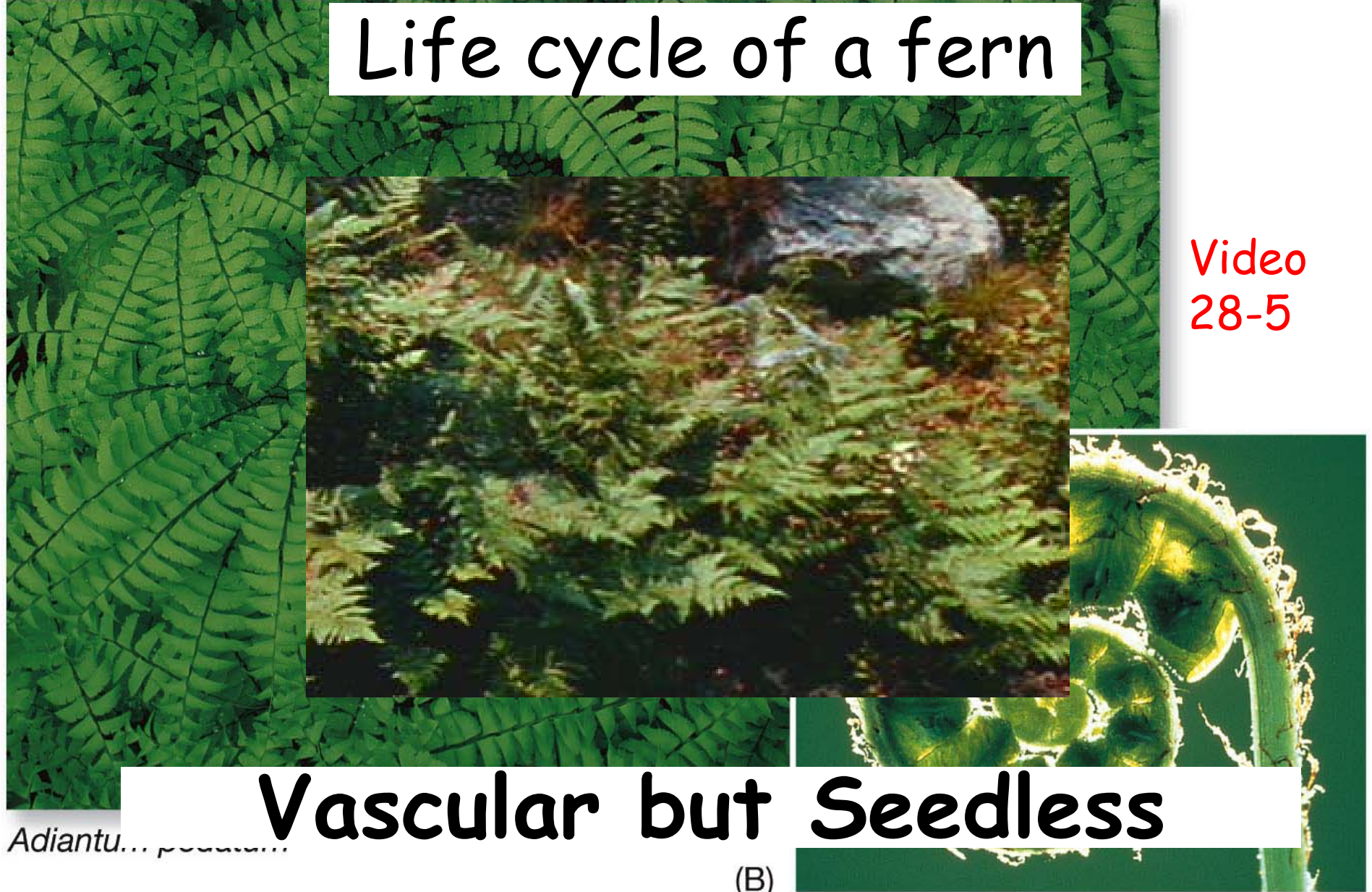
Some genera have a tuberous gametophyte that depends on a *mutualistic fungus* for nutrition.



(A)

# Life cycle of a fern

Video  
28-5



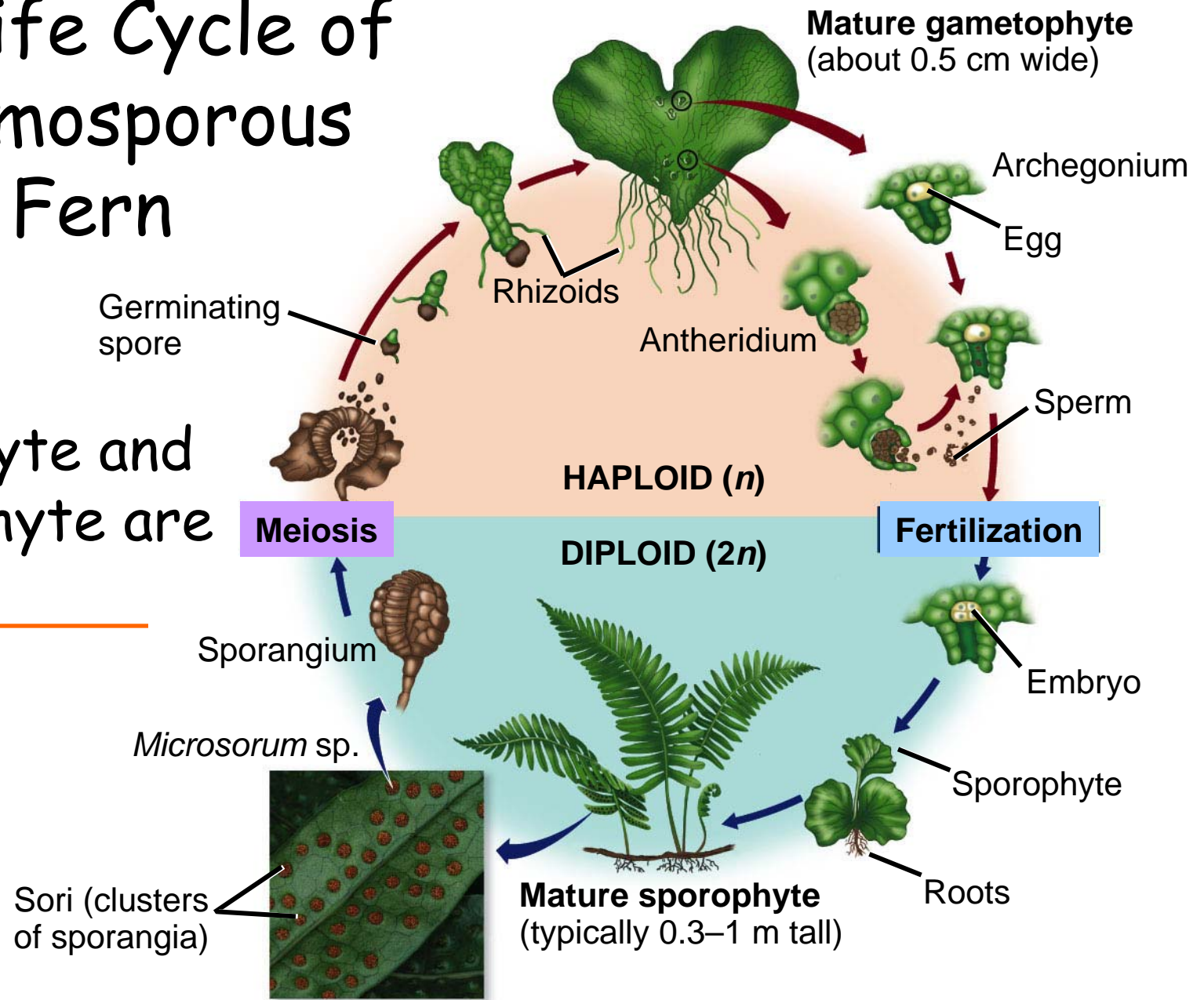
*Adiantum pedatum*

(B)



# The Life Cycle of a Homosporous Fern

Sporophyte and Gametophyte are each



LIFE 8e, Figure 28.20



# Ferns...

DNA research suggests that diversification of modern ferns is fairly recent.

Ferns may have taken advantage of shady environments created by angiosperm trees.

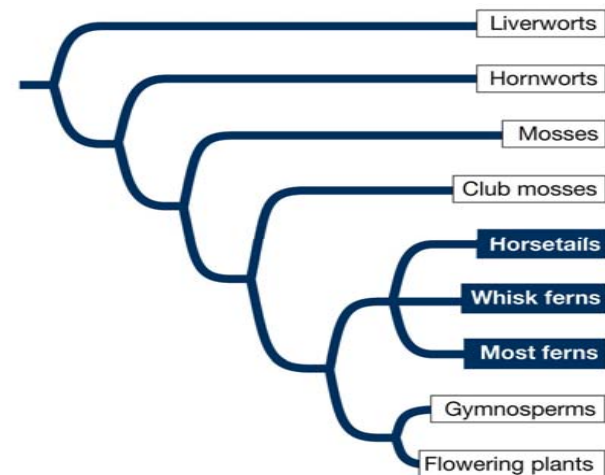


# Early Vascular Plants

During the Permian, the continents came together to form Pangaea.

Extensive glaciation occurred late in the Permian.

Lycophyte-fern forests were replaced by **gymnosperms**.





# Bristlecone Pine



If you could imagine a living tree as old as the pyramids of Egypt, what do you think it would look like? It would look like a bristlecone pine, *Pinus longaeva*, the known tree species in the world.

The bristlecone pine only lives in scattered, arid mountain regions of six western states of America, but the oldest are found in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest in the [White Mountains of California](#). There the pines exist in an exposed, windswept, harsh environment, free of competition from other plants and the ravages of insects and disease. The oldest bristlecones usually grow at elevations of [10,000 to 11,000 feet](#).



# Bristlecone Pine



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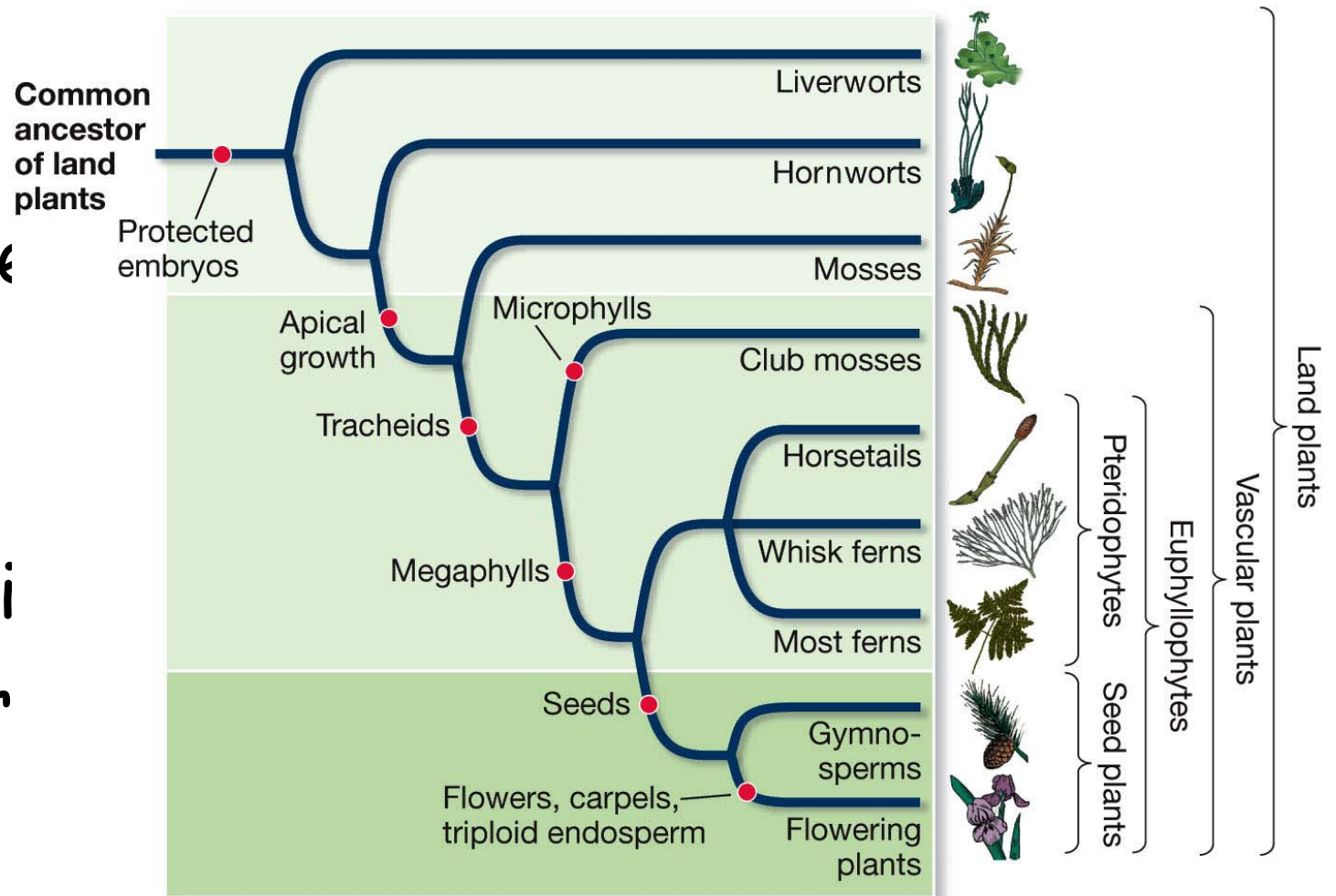
Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research

<http://www.ltrr.arizona.edu/>



# Which of the following are vascular plants?

- a Juniper
- b Sunflower
- c Fern
- d Moss
- e Horsetail
- f Liverwort
- g Lily



LIFE 8e, Figure 28.7