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The Bryophyte flora of the Sicilian archaeological areas

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The results of surveys conducted in the last two decades on the bryophytes of some Sicilian archaeological areas located in the provinces of Palermo, Catania, Enna, Syracuse, and Trapani are analyzed. The taxonomic, ecological and chorological characters of the floras are compared and the similarity among their species composition is evaluated. Furthermore, the taxa of major phytogeographic interest, whose protection measures have to comply with the conservation requirements of the sites, are highlighted, as well as the most frequent and covering species, of which both the role of biodeteriogens of the ruins and the protective role in the biological soil crusts are emphasized.