

## EPHEMERACEAE

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*Plants* very tiny, delicate, ephemeral, growing on soil, usually with persistent, green, shiny protonemata spreading around soil surfaces. *Stems* very short; central strand often absent. *Leaves* few, the lower leaves short and small, the upper leaves larger and more crowded, ovate-lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, gradually acuminate; margins entire below, serrate above; costa slender, usually weak, obsolete or absent; upper leaf cells narrowly rectangular or irregularly oblong-rhomboidal; basal cells larger, lax, rectangular. *Mostly dioicous*. *Male plants* minute, budlike; female plants also very tiny. *Setae* very short or lacking; capsules immersed in perichaetial leaves, globose to ovoid, without neck or neck poorly developed; stomata superficial or not developed; opercula, annuli, and peristome none; columella usually resorbed at maturity. *Calyptrae* small, often mitrate, rarely cucullate. *Spores* large, spherical, yellowish or yellowish brown, often papillose, rarely smooth.