

## Telome Theory

Zimmerman's proposed the Telome theory on Telome concept in 1959. The telome theory is a synthesis of information accumulated prior to 1938. According to him, Rhynia type present a primitive vascular plant morphology that by evolution modification of its parts produce more highly evolved vascular plants with root, stem, leaves more complex vascular sys. & protected sporangia.

Acc to Zimmerman, the primitive land plants originated are differentiated into readily constructed dichotomously branched marine algae and cambrian and silurian era. These ancestral type of algae develop from heteromorphic after alternation of generation and vascularization and these dichotomously become more elaborate and thus gave rise to the sporophytic plant body of primitive vascularised plant such as Psilophyta.

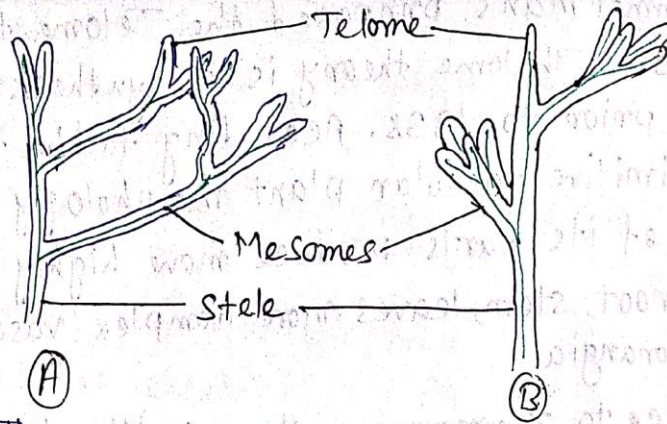
Acc to this theory sporophyte of various vascular plant group (Lycopsidea, Sphenopsida and Filicopsida) evolved from early land plants (Psilophyta) by certain evolutionary processes.

These processes includes:

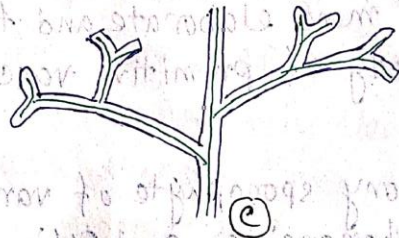
- ① Overtopping
- ② Planation
- ③ Syngensis (Fusion or webbing)
- ④ Reduction
- ⑤ Curvation

① Overtopping: In this process one branch of 2 dichotomous of a telome overgrows the other, becomes stronger and erect forming the main axis of increased activity of the apical meristem. The other branch become short & lateral. The main axis become the stem and the overtopping branches turne from overtopping may be pseudomonopodial. Extra pollation of the overtopping process acc. by reduction of the lateral results in a branching system where there is a recognisable main stem & rachis or midrib. The process of reduction of an overtopping telome truss has been used by Zimmerman to

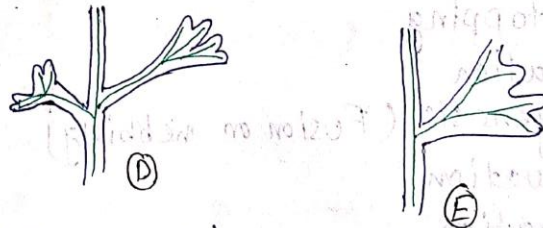
as needle like leaves of conifers:



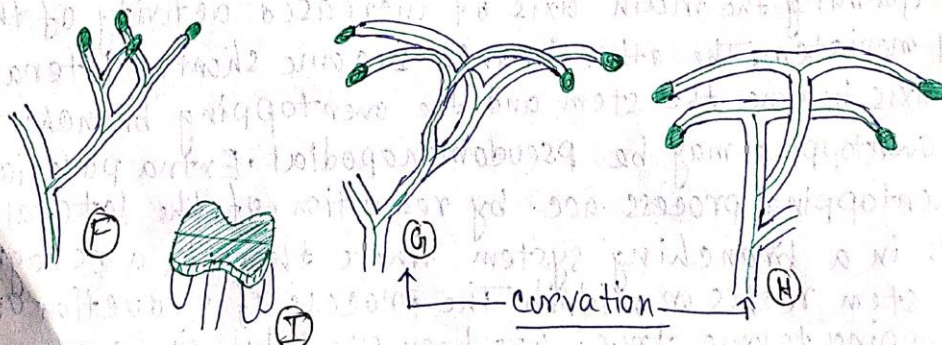
② Planation:- The process caused the telome & mesomes of the truss to shift from a three dimensional pattern to one in which branches occur in a single plane - this process is associated with the formation of leaves.



③ Syngensis or webbing:- It is the process of infilling with photosynthetic & other parenchymatous tissue between the flattened bot-like structure with a dichotomously veined lamina.



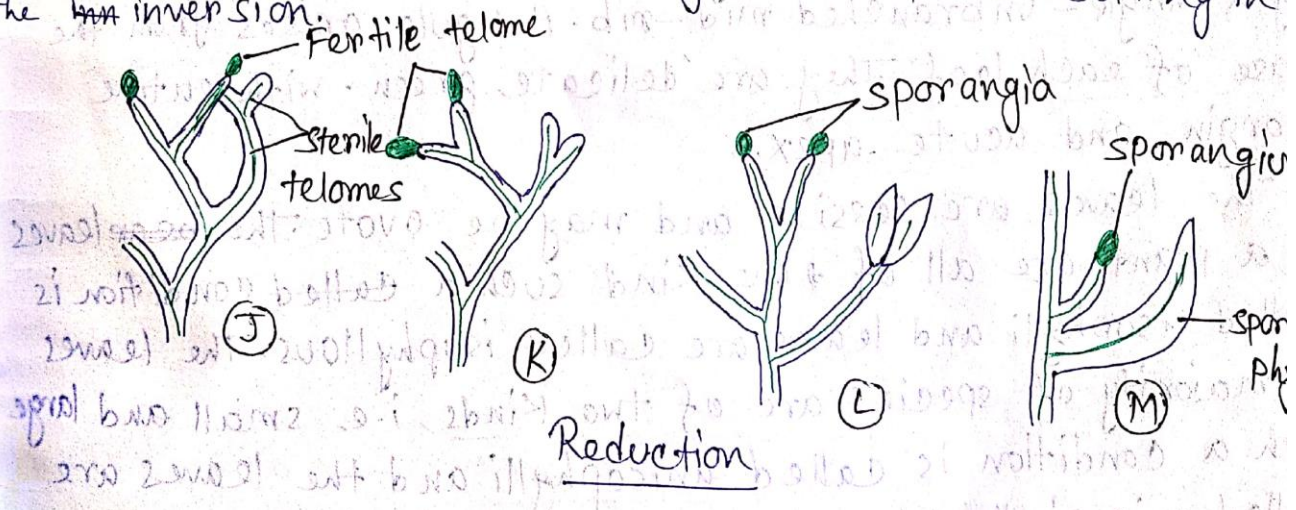
Zimmerman explained the formation of syngangia by the tangential fusion and reduction of fertile and sterile telome as shown below:-



syngeneses may be foliar or axial. In foliar syngeneses planated telomes truss give rise to leaves with open dichotomous venation. In axile syngeneses several telome trusses fuse together to form various complex types of steles.

④ Reduction :- In this there is a reduction of telome trusses resulting in a single telome which leaves to the needle-like microphyllous leaves of lycopsida, sphenopsida and on conifer. Reduction is the result of the activity of the terminal ~~merist~~ meristem or if ~~them~~ telome or each truss is suppressed or mesomes becomes shorten.

⑤ curvation :- This process occur infertile telomes where bending of the terminal sporangia takes place resulting in the ~~kan~~ inversion.



# Selaginella

## Morphology:-

- 1) Many species of Selaginella are herbaceous, perennials, few are annuals.
- 2) Majority are dorsiventral and grow prostrate (Selaginella chryso caulos), a few are radial and grow erect (S. rupestris).
- 3) Some dorsiventral species are caudexcent with erect stems arising from creeping rhizomes.
- 4) The stem divides dichotomously into two equal limbs that bears spirally arranged isophyllous leaves.
- 5) The leaves are microphyllous. Each leaf is traversed by a single- unbranched mid-rib. A tegule arises from the base of each leaf\*. They are delicate green with entire margin and acute apex.
- 6) The leaves are sessile and may be ovate. The ~~leaves~~ leaves in a plant are all of one kind such a ~~called~~ condition is called isophylli and leaves are called isophyllous. The leaves in majority of species are of two kinds, i.e. small and large such a condition is called anisophylli and the leaves are called anisophyllous.
- 7) The phyllostaxy or the arrangement of the leaves on the stem is always spiral in the isophyllous species of Selaginella. In the anisophyllous species of Selaginella chryso caulos the small and large leaves formed four longitudinal rows.
- 8) The legule develops quite early during the ontogeny of the leaves and arises from its base on the upper side. It is wedged shaped, lobed, lanceolate or may even have fringed margins.
- \* Rhizophores is a structure of controversial morphological nature and present in most of the dorsiventral Selaginella. They are leafless and positively geotropic organs that have ~~as~~ usually a localised origin.

## Anatomy:-

**Stem:-** The vascular region or the stelem system in selagin exhibits considerable variation in the different species or even in different part of the stem in different species.

T.S shows the following structures:-

a) Epidermis:- It is made up of thin walled regular or barrel shaped cells and is covered by a thin layer of cuticle. The cells are colourless. There are no stomata.

b) Cortex:- It consists of many layers of cells. The outermost layer of cells develop thick walls in the older region of cells and form a sclerenchymatous hypodermis. The rest of the cortex is made up of thin-walled chlorenchymatous and polygonal cells. They enclose small intercellular spaces.

c) Air space:- Next to the cortex there is large air space in the centre of which lies the stele suspended by means of trabeculae. The trabeculae are modified endodermic cells and possess caspian strips.

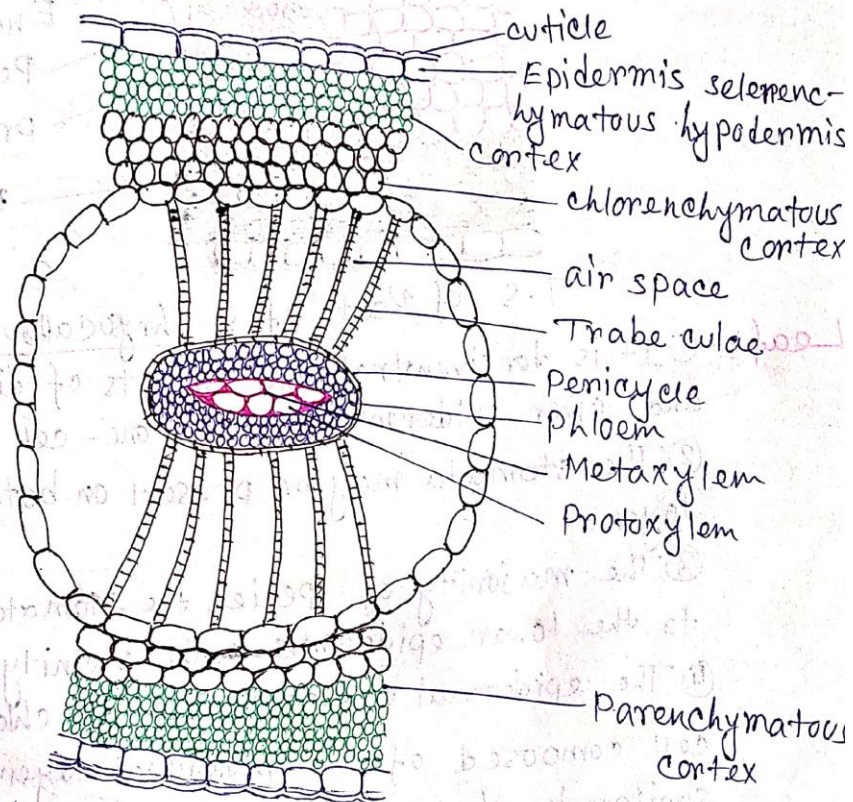
**Stele**:- There is single central stele situated in the air space by trabeculae. The stele in this species is flattened like a ribbon and is called a protostele because there is no pith in the centre. It consists of -

(a) A single layer of thin walled cells called the pericycle.

(b) Next to the pericycle is phloem. Phloem comprises encircles the central xylem.

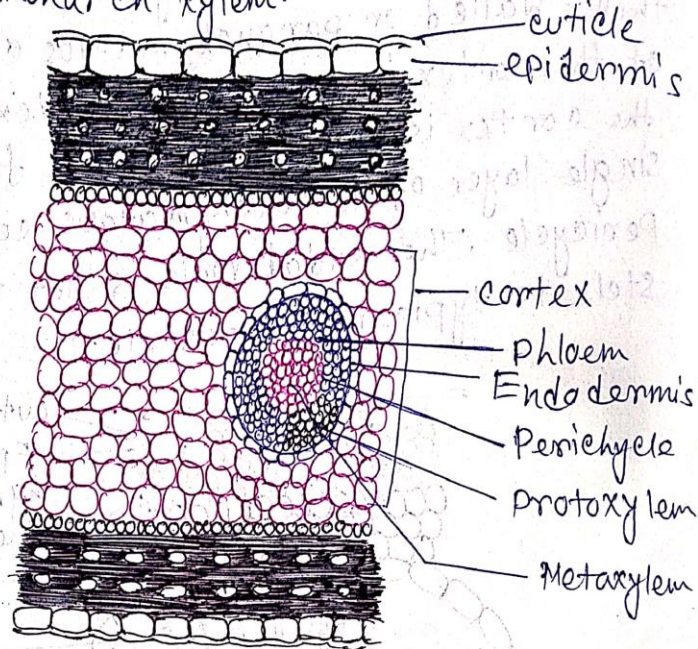
(c) The centre of the stele is occupied by the xylem tissue. The xylem therefore forms the core of the stele, there being no pith. The xylem consists of ~~meta~~ meta and protoxylem. The xylem is therefore exarch, since there are two groups of protoxylem at either end of the xylem is regarded as diarch.

**Rhizophore:** In a T.S, the rhizophore reveals a single-layer whose cells may be thick-walled. The cortex is extensive & is usually ~~to~~ distinct into an outer thick-walled or sclerenchymatous cortex and inner thin-walled or parenchymatous cortex. Last layer of the cortex is endodermis cortex. Last layer of the cortex is endodermis and is followed by a single layer of parenchymatous cell called Pericycle. The endodermis is not very clear. The stele is typically protosteles.



- Root:**
- ① The root epidermis is a single-layer and is covered by a thin cuticle. Root hairs are present.
  - ② The cortex is white and extensive and usually consist of an outer sclerenchymatous cortex of 3-5 layers.
  - ③ In the younger roots the sclerenchyma is peripheral in position & is followed by thin walled cortex.
  - ④ A distinct air space has also been reported in inner cortex of Selaginella densa. It is traversed by trabeculae that are not endodermal cells but cortical cells that elongate radially.

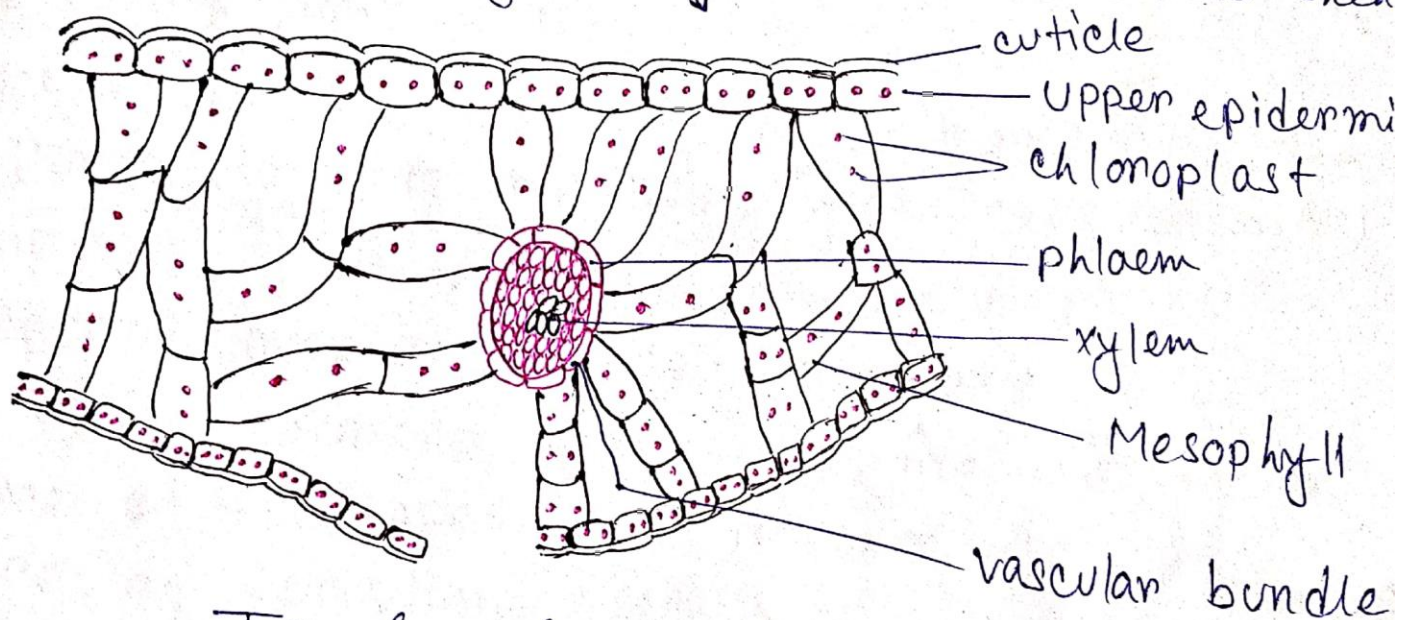
- ⑤ This airspace is absent in other species.
- ⑥ The endodermis is distinct. Next to the endodermis is a single layer of pericycle.
- ⑦ The stele is a typical protosteles with exarch and monarch xylem.



T.S of Root of S. chrysocephalus

- leaf:-
- ① It is dorsiventral and consists of distinct upper and lower epidermis that are one-cell in thickness.
  - ② The stomata may be present on both the epidermal layer.
  - ③ The majority of species the stomata are restricted to the lower epidermis in the vicinity of the midrib.
  - ④ The epidermal cell consists of the chloroplast. The cell composed of two epidermal layers may be similar in shape and size or they may show some difference.
  - ⑤ The epidermal cell of some species bear hair-like appendages.
  - ⑥ Mesophyll is composed of thin walled cells that loosely arranged and enclosed small or large airsp.
  - ⑦ In majority of the species it is made up of similar cells and is well developed in regions around the midrib. The mesophyll cells consist of available

- ⑧ The chloroplast contain no. of spindle-shaped bodies that ultimately become transformed into starch grains.
- ⑨ They appear like pyrenoids.
- ⑩ The vascular ~~is~~ bundle is very simple and is surrounded by phloem. The xylem has tracheids only and there is no distinction into proto or metaxylem.
- ⑪ There is a single layer of cells composed encircles the phloem. It may be regarded as the bundle sheath.



T.S of leaf of *S. trausiana*



# Selaginella

## organisation of strobilus:-

- ① The strobilus is the sporangia bearing region of the sporophyte.
- ② The sporangia arise in the axils of leaves called sporophyll. The sporophyll are like ordinary vegetative leaves bears may differ in shape and size.
- ③ There are two kinds of sporangia in Selaginella
  - ① Microsporangia
  - ② Mega sporangia
- ④ The sporophylls bearing microsporangia may be called microsporophylls and those bearing megasporangia are called ~~macro~~ macrosporophylls.
- ⑤ There is no morphological and anatomical differences between micro and macrosporophylls.
- ⑥ The strobilus is always terminal in position. It's formation usually results in cessation in apical growth.
- ⑦ In some cases, however that axis of the strobilus resumes growth i.e. it proliferates and outgrowth and the strobilus to form a dorsiventral shoot (S. grandis) ×
- ⑧ In Selaginella, the strobilus is cylindrical & sporophylls are spirally arranged, isophyllous.
- ⑨ In a large no. of species the strobilus is tetragenus or four-angled.
- ⑩ strobili are usually bisporangiate, i.e. they bear both mega and microsporangia in the axils of the respective sporophylls.
- ⑪ In S. crassina, there is only one megasporophyte at the base of the strobilus & the rest are micro-sporophylls.

## ② Megaspore

⑫ They are produced in microsporangia & megasporangia which arise in the axils of microsporophylls and megasporophylls.

## ⑬ Structure of microsporangia-

A microsporangia may be oval or reniform or spherical in shape and varies in colour from red yellow to brown.

① The outline of the sporangium is smooth & almost regular. It is smaller in size than the megasporangium & has a short multicellular stalk that varies in width in different species.

② The wall of the spor microsporangium is two-layered thick.

③ Next to the inner wall known is the tapetum which is nutritive in function.

④ The wall layers & the tapetum enclose a large no. of microspore mother cell.

⑤ The mother cells are diploid & are the large cells of the diplophase or the sporophytic generation.

⑥ This undergoes meiosis and forms numerous microspores tetrads. The microspores in a tetrad are tetrahedrally arranged & later on separate from each other.

⑦ The cavity of the sporophylls is now filled with numerous microspores.

## ⑭ structure of Megasporangia-

① It is a comparatively larger in size, 4-lobed shortly stalked or may be in green or cream coloured in some species & white or dark brown in colour.

② It has a two-layered wall & the third inner wall is called the tapetum.

③ out of the spore mother cells only one remains

functional and divides meiotically to form a tetrad of four haploid mega spores.

(4) By this type the tapetum usually disorganises, but this is by no means true for all species.

x (5) The megaspores separate & grow considerably in size so as to fill up the whole sporangium.

(6) In Selaginella willdenovii, the no. of megaspores varies between 4-24 or even 36-40.

