

An overlooked boreal clubmoss *Lycopodium lagopus* (Laest. ex Hartm.) Zinserl. ex Kusen. (Lycopodiaceae) in Britain

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ABSTRACT

Lycopodium lagopus (Laest. ex Hartm.) Zinserl. ex Kusen. (syn. [redacted]) (Grev. & Hooker) Selander, a widespread circumpolar taxon, is reported from Britain for the first time. First collected in the 19th century, it had been dismissed as *L. clavatum* and its significance not recognised. The appropriate taxonomic rank for this plant has long proved controversial but where sympatric with *L. clavatum* it apparently maintains its distinctions, supporting the view that it deserves specific rank. Its current status and British range are unclear but it is considered likely to be extremely localised and as an arctic disjunct element in our flora facing at least as great a threat as its declining lowland counterpart, not least through global warming and upland management practices.

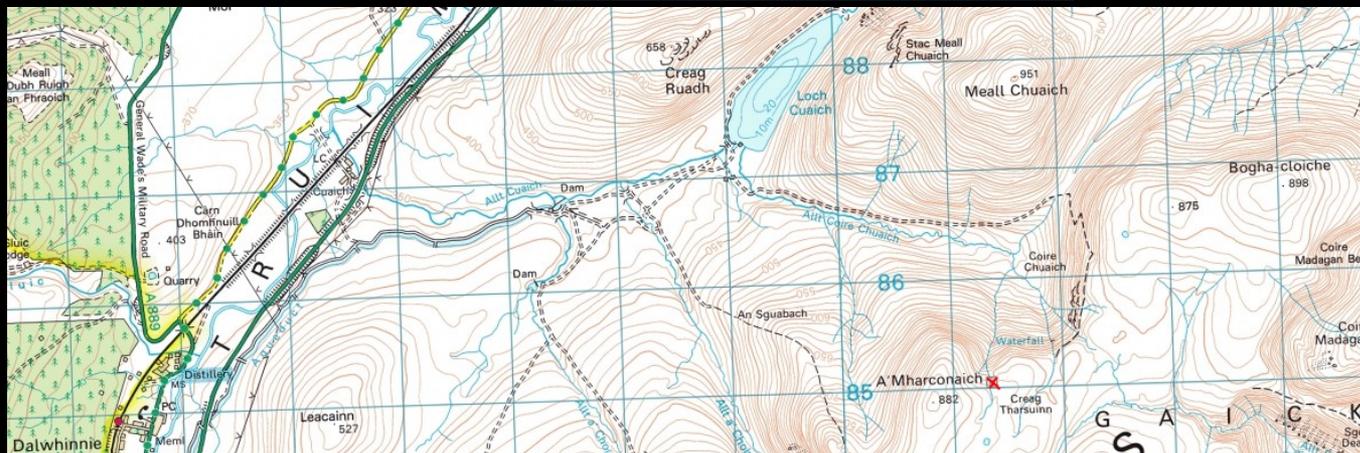
KEYWORDS: *Lycopodium clavatum* subsp. *monostachyon*, Cairngorms, Arctic Stag's-horn Clubmoss, v.c. 96, v.c. 97.



What is *Lycopodium lagopus*? - and other rare clubmosses Andy Amphlett

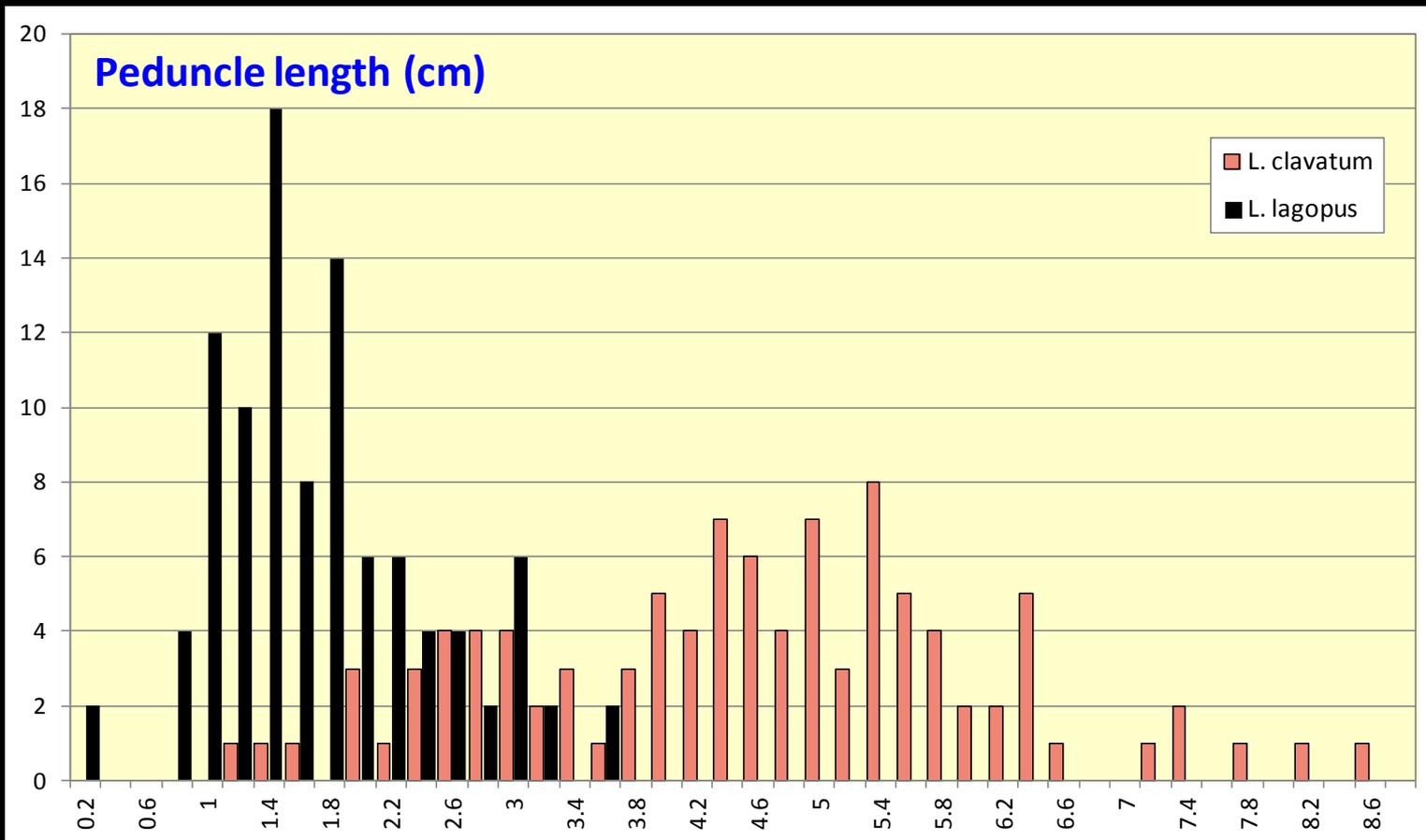


A new (4th) site found in 2015





Lycopodium lagopus A' Mharconaich (E. of) vc96 - 820m AOD - 16/8/2015



	10 th percentile	90 th percentile	n (populations)
<i>L. clavatum</i>	2.5	6.3	100 (13)
<i>L. lagopus</i>	0.9	2.7	50 (1)

Rumsey: 0 – 1.2cm (range of values atypical?)

Flora Nordica: (0) 1-3 (4.5)cm – as *L. clavatum subsp. monostachyon*. Range of values matches A' Mharconaich plants.



Ian Strachan (*L. lagopus* vc97)



Ian Green (*L. lagopus* vc96)



Typical appearance of *Lycopodium clavatum* (vc95)

Other rare clubmosses

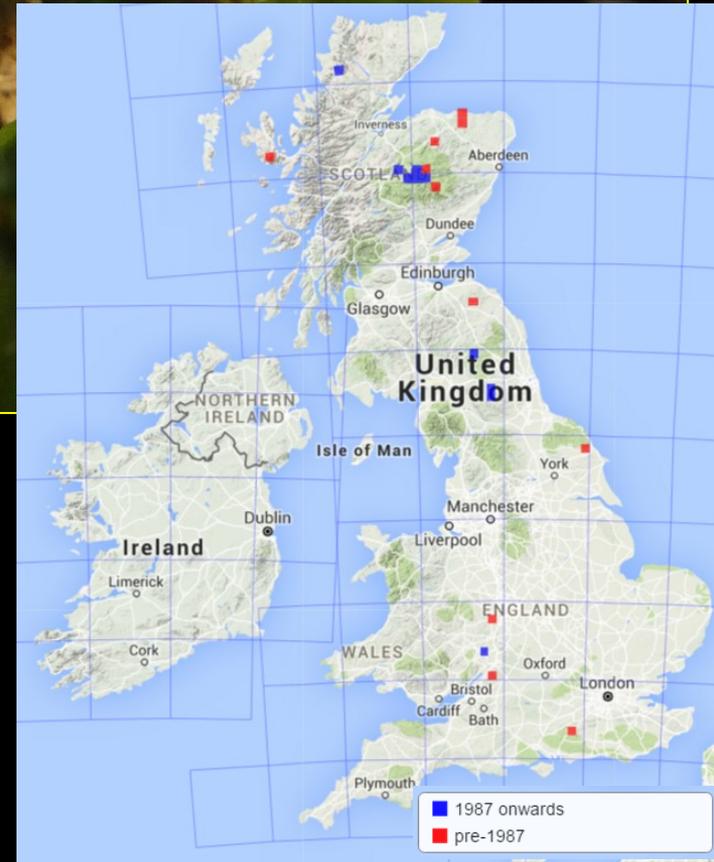
Diphasiastrum complanatum (*D. x issleri*)





Diphasiastrum complanatum (*D. x issleri*)

Lateral and under-leaves on last year's shoots diagnostic





Diphasiastrum alpinum – aberrant colour form. Normally blue-green.

Under-leaves on last years shoots with petiole, diagnostic.





Huperzia selago subsp. arctica. Yellowish colour, erect leaves. May be two rows of gemmifers per annual growth zone. Under-recorded.



Huperzia selago subsp. selago

Green, bushy, leaves spreading.

Only record subspecies when forms are well marked.

Otherwise record as species.