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. *Lycopodium clavatum* (Grev. & Hooker) Serckler), a widespread circumpolar arctic 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
Peduncle length (cm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>10th percentile</th>
<th>90th percentile</th>
<th>n (populations)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>L. clavatum</em></td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>100 (13)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>L. lagopus</em></td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>50 (1)</td>
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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' Mharconach plants.
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.