NS General Status Rank: Secure

HERBS : NON-WOODY PLANTS

SIZE: 10-45 cm long, trailing along the ground and producing roots at several points along the stem.

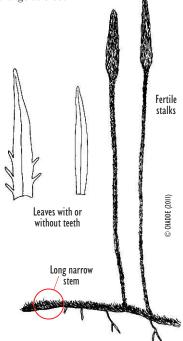
LEAVES: Small, 5-8 mm long and 1 mm wide, dark green and arranged in several rows along the stem. They may be pressed against the stem or spread out and their edges can be smooth or have up to 7 tiny teeth.

STEM: Long, narrow, grows along the ground and can bear 1 to 7 erect fertile stalks.

REPRODUCTIVE STALKS: Erect fertile stalks, 5 to 15 cm tall, that form leafy cone-like structures (strobili) which produce spores. The leaves on the fertile stalks are typically tightly pressed against the stems and have smooth edges.

NOTES: This species is part of an ancient group of plants

(Lycopodiophyta) that have lived on this earth for 410 million years. Some of the extinct species in this group were as large as trees!





Southern Bog Clubmoss



© MARTIN THOMAS





Erect fertile stalks

Habitat:

Wet typically peaty lakeshores, usually at the water's edge.

Interesting point: Clubmosses are well known for the highly flammable oil found in their spores. The spores can be abundant when they are released and have traditionally been used as flash powder by early photographers.

Similar species: Inundated Clubmoss (Lycopodiella inundata) is generally smaller, has shorter fertile branches (3.5-6 cm long), and the leaf edges are without small teeth.



