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- 96b Tan scales are present on the lower leaf surface, along the pinna midveins; the upper leaf surface is smooth or sparsely hairy, with hairs shorter than 0.2mm *Cyclosorus* ■■■■
- 95b The lowest veins of adjacent pinnules, in at least a few places, come together right at the sinus, or reach the margin above the sinus 97
- 97a Yellowish glands are present on the lower surface of the leaf (especially along the veins and at the pinnule tips) *Amblovenatum* ■■■■
- 97b No yellowish glands are present on the lower surface of the leaf *Pelazoneuron* ■■■■■
- 91b The pinnule midveins, lateral veins, and blade tissue do not have a sparse to dense covering of transparent, needlelike or starlike hairs 98
- 98a Leaves are 1-pinnate and the leaf tip always remains curled in a tiny fiddlehead *Nephrolepis* ■■■■■
- 98b Leaves are variously divided and the leaf tip unfurls completely, not remaining as a fiddlehead 99
- 99a Lateral veins are distinctly reticulate and anastomosing, forming networks of small polygons 100
- 99a Leaves are tough and leathery and strongly 1-pinnate; pinnae have long tips that usually curve upward toward the leaf tip *Cyrtomium* ■■■■■
- 100b Leaves are not particularly leathery and are lobed to pinnatifid or 1-pinnate; pinna tips are not long and drawn out *Tectaria* ■■■■■
- 99b Lateral veins are free or form networks only occasionally 101
- 101a Sori are round and indusia are attached at their center, like an umbrella (peltate) 102
- 102a Leaves are 1-pinnate or 2-pinnate and form vase-like clusters *Polystichum* (remaining species) ■■■■■
- 102b Leaves are 2-pinnate to 3-pinnate and spread out along long-creeping stems *Rumohra* ■■■■■
- 101b Sori are kidney shaped and indusia are attached at 1 edge 103
- 103a Leaves are variegated in color, the pinnae yellow to light green at the center and darkening toward the margins; indusia may appear round or peltate but are attached along 1 edge *Arachniodes* ■■■■■
- 103a Leaves are not variegated and are uniform in color; indusia are usually clearly attached along 1 edge and do not appear peltate *Dryopteris* (remaining species) ■■■■■

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LYCOPHYTES

DESCRIPTIONS OF
GENERA AND SPECIES

DENDROLYCOPIDIUM

FAMILY: LYCOPODIACEAE

Dendrolycopodium is a genus of lycopophytes known as the tree clubmosses, and this common name references an easily recognizable aspect of their appearance: they strongly resemble small pine trees. The members of this genus were historically included in *Lycopodium*, the clubmoss genus (p. 86), which explains the remainder of the common name. *Lycopodium* has been broken up in recent years into several smaller genera, and *Dendrolycopodium* is perhaps the most readily distinguishable of these, based on its unique miniature tree-like morphology. Globally there are 4 or 5 species in the genus, all in mountainous, temperate, and/or boreal regions of the Northern Hemisphere, and we have 3 species in our flora. The lateral branches of *Dendrolycopodium* usually have whorls of leaves in sets of 6, and the arrangement and relative size of these leaves are useful characters for distinguishing the 3 species (see figure below). Base chromosome number ($x = 34$).

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF DENDROLYCOPIDIUM IN OUR FLORA:

1a The leaves on the main upright shoot axes are spaced widely apart and spread outward, sometimes nearly horizontally; the lateral shoots have 2 leaves on the top surface pointing upward, 2 on the lower surface pointing downward, and 1 on each side pointing outward

Dendrolycopodium dendroideum

1b The leaves on the main upright shoot axes are close together and are pressed more or less against the axis, pointing strongly upward; the lateral shoots have 1 leaf on the top surface pointing upward, 1 leaf on the lower surface pointing downward, and 2 leaves on each side pointing outward

2

2a The lateral shoots are round in cross section; the lateral leaves of the lateral shoots are not twisted and are all more or less the same length

Dendrolycopodium hickeyi

2b The lateral shoots are flat in cross section; the lateral leaves of the lateral shoots are somewhat twisted, so that the side of the leaf points upward; the leaves pointing downward from the lower surfaces of the lateral shoots are shorter than the other leaves

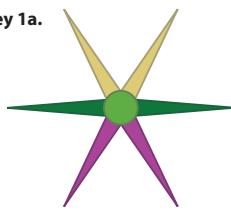
Dendrolycopodium obscurum

Upper leaves

Lateral leaves

Lower leaves

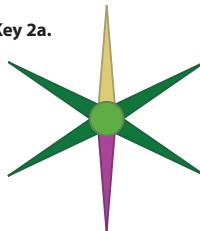
Key 1a.



Dendrolycopodium dendroideum

Two upper leaves, two lower leaves, one lateral leaf on each side; all leaves are the same size; the branch is round in cross section

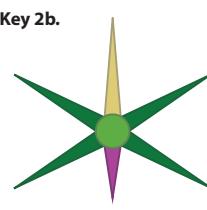
Key 2a.



Dendrolycopodium hickeyi

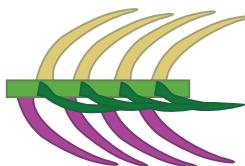
One upper leaf, one lower leaf, two lateral leaves on each side; all leaves are the same size; the branch is round in cross section

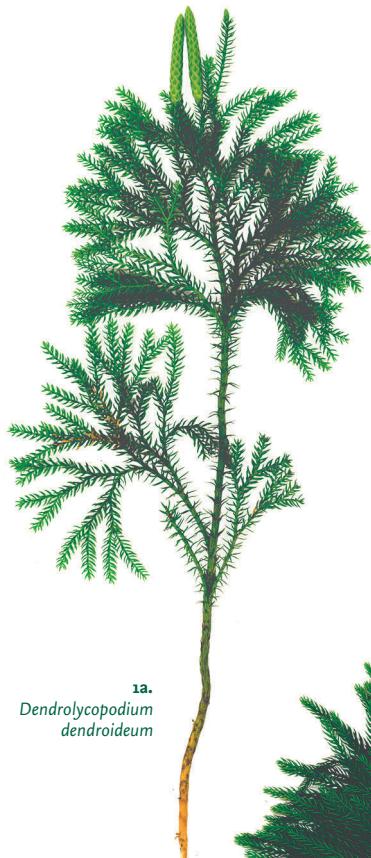
Key 2b.



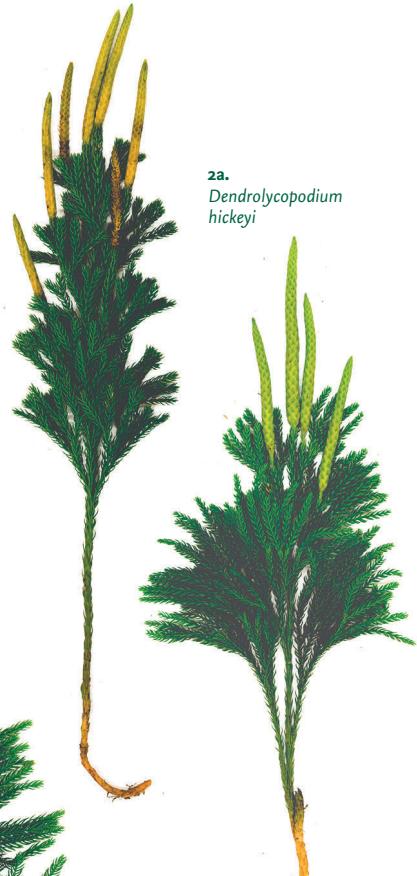
Dendrolycopodium obscurum

One upper leaf, one lower leaf, two lateral leaves on each side; the lower leaf is shorter; the branch is flat in cross section

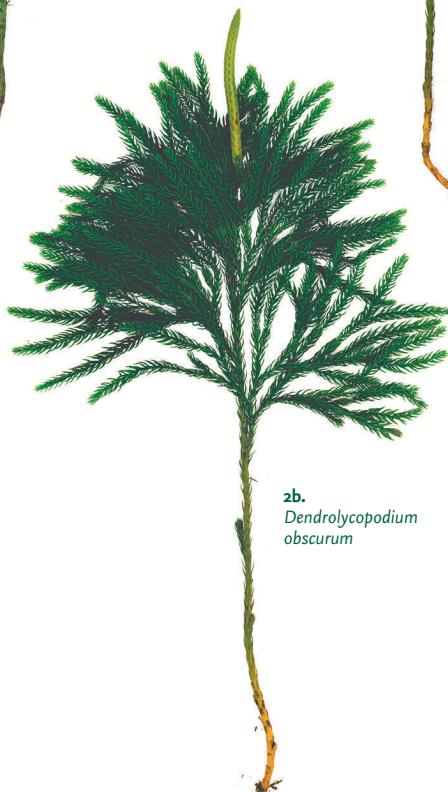




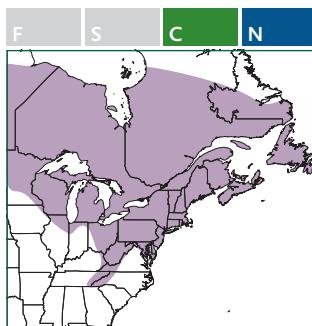
1a.
*Dendrolycopodium
dendroideum*



2a.
*Dendrolycopodium
hickeyi*



2b.
*Dendrolycopodium
obscurum*



Dendrolycopodium dendroideum

COMMON NAME(S) Northern tree clubmoss, prickly tree clubmoss

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Lycopodium dendroideum*

STATUS Native, somewhat common

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Dry forests and shrubby habitats; also occurs in western North America and Asia

Plants are terrestrial. **Stems** are belowground and long creeping. **Shoots** are erect and treelike, up to 26cm tall, with a central axis and numerous lateral side shoots that branch further. **Leaves** on the main upright shoot axes are up to 4mm long and 1mm wide, are spaced widely apart, and spread outward, sometimes nearly horizontally. The horizontal **branches** are round in cross section, with more or less obvious annual growth constrictions, and with leaves up to 3.5mm long and 1.2mm wide that spread slightly outward before pointing toward the shoot tip. The branches have 2 leaves on the top surface pointing upward, 2 on the lower surface pointing downward, and 1 lateral leaf on each side pointing outward. All leaves are roughly the same length, and none of the leaves are twisted. **Margins** are entire, and leaves are linear and pointed but do not have a hairlike tip. **Strobili** are up to 55mm long and sit directly atop the leaf portion of the upright shoots, with 1–7 strobili per shoot. $2n=68$ (diploid).



A



B

A. Plants of *Dendrolycopodium dendroideum*.

B. Main shoot axis showing widely spaced, spreading leaves.

C. Lateral branches.

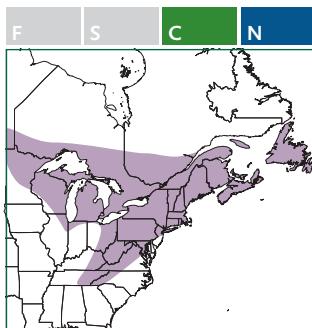
D. Strobili.



C



D



Dendrolycopodium hickeyi

COMMON NAME(S) Hickey's tree clubmoss

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Lycopodium hickeyi*

STATUS Native (endemic to North America), somewhat common

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Forests and shrubby habitats; also occurs in western North America

Plants are terrestrial. **Stems** are belowground and long creeping. **Shoots** are erect and treelike, up to 16cm tall, with a central axis and numerous lateral side shoots that branch further. **Leaves** on the main upright shoot axes are up to 4.5mm long and 0.6mm wide and are close together and pressed more or less against the axis, pointing strongly upward. The horizontal **branches** are round in cross section, with more or less obvious annual growth constrictions, and with leaves up to 5mm long and 1mm wide that spread slightly outward before pointing toward the shoot tip. The branches have 1 leaf on the top surface pointing upward, 1 leaf on the lower surface pointing downward, and 2 lateral leaves on each side pointing outward. All leaves are roughly the same length, and none of the leaves are twisted. **Margins** are entire, and leaves are linear and pointed but do not have a hairlike tip. **Strobili** are up to 65mm long and sit directly atop the leaf portion of the upright shoots, with 1–7 strobili per shoot. $2n=68$ (diploid).



A



B



C

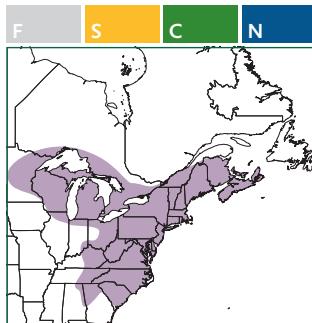


D

A & B. Plants of *Dendrolycopodium hickeyi*.

C. Plants showing lateral branches that are round in crosssection.

D. Strobili.



Dendrolycopodium obscurum

COMMON NAME(S) Flat-branched tree clubmoss

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Lycopodium obscurum*

STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), common

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Forests and shrubby habitats

Plants are terrestrial. **Stems** are belowground and long creeping. **Shoots** are erect and treelike, up to 21cm tall, with a central axis and numerous lateral side shoots that branch further.

Leaves on the main upright shoot axes are up to 4.5mm long

and 0.7mm wide and are close together and pressed more or less against the axis, pointing strongly upward. The horizontal **branches** are flat in cross section, with more or less obvious annual growth constrictions, and with leaves up to 5.5mm long and 1.2mm wide that spread slightly outward before pointing toward the shoot tip. The branches have 1 leaf on the top surface pointing upward, 1 leaf on the lower surface pointing downward, and 2 lateral leaves on each side pointing outward. The downward-pointing leaves on the lower surface are distinctly shorter and give the branch its flattened appearance. The outward-pointing lateral leaves are somewhat twisted, so that the top surfaces of the leaves point upward instead of outward. **Margins** are entire, and leaves are linear and pointed but do not have a hairlike tip. **Strobili** are up to 60mm long and sit directly atop the leaf portion of the upright shoots, with 1–6 strobili per shoot. $2n=68$ (diploid).

A



B



C



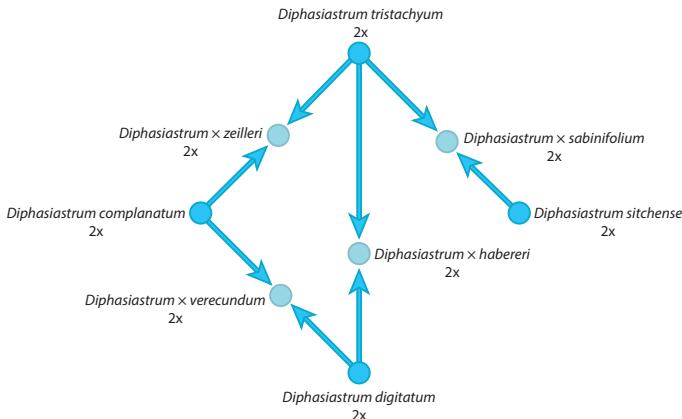
B. Lateral branches appear flat in cross section.

C. Side view of flattened lateral branches.

A. Plants of *Dendrolycopodium obscurum*.

FAMILY: LYCOPODIACEAE

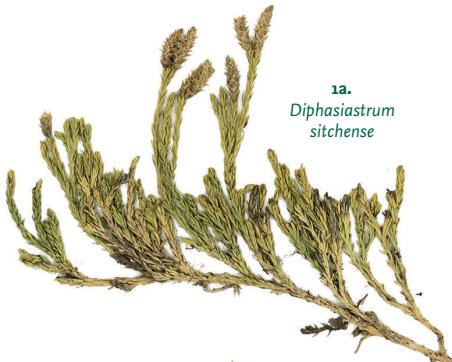
Diphasiastrum is a genus of lycophytes commonly known as ground-pines, ground-cedars, or running-pines for their resemblance to miniature conifer trees. They have minute, scalelike leaves and distinctive fan-shaped branches that set them apart from other, closely related and morphologically similar genera. Globally there are 16 species recognized in *Diphasiastrum*, and 4 occur in our flora. The group is known worldwide for its ability to produce hybrids, many of which are fertile and can be locally abundant (see figure below). Base chromosome number (x) = 23.



Relationships among *Diphasiastrum* species in eastern North America. Darker blue circles are diploid parental taxa (2x), and arrows show the direction of their parental contributions to fertile diploid (also 2x) hybrids (lighter blue circles). For more information about interpreting these figures, see p. 12.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF DIPHASIASTRUM IN OUR FLORA:

- 1a The upright shoots are mostly less than 12cm tall; the strobili are mostly unstalked, sitting directly atop the leafy part of the shoot *Diphasiastrum sitchense*
- 1b The upright shoots are mostly more than 12cm tall; the strobili are mostly stalked, sitting atop long peduncles 2
 - 2a The tip-most branchlets are 4-sided and nearly square in cross section; leaves and plants are usually somewhat bluish or grayish green; the leaves on the tops, sides, and bottoms of the branches are more or less all equal in size *Diphasiastrum tristachyum*
 - 2b The tip-most branchlets are flat in cross section; leaves and plants are bright to dark green; the leaves on the bottoms of the branches are much smaller than those on the tops and sides 3
 - 3a Branching is irregular; annual growth constrictions are usually apparent along the branches; strobili are mostly 10–25mm long and sit at the tips of relatively thin peduncles *Diphasiastrum complanatum* subsp. *complanatum*
 - 3b Branching is regular and fanlike; annual growth constrictions are not present; strobili are mostly 20–40mm long and sit at the tips of relatively thick, stout peduncles *Diphasiastrum digitatum*



1a.
*Diphasiastrum
sitchense*

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE C. V. STARR VIRTUAL HERBARIUM
OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN (NY 02705320).

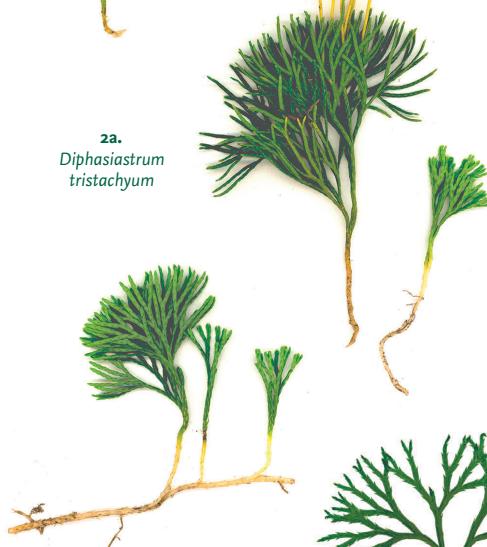


2a.
*Diphasiastrum
tristachyum*

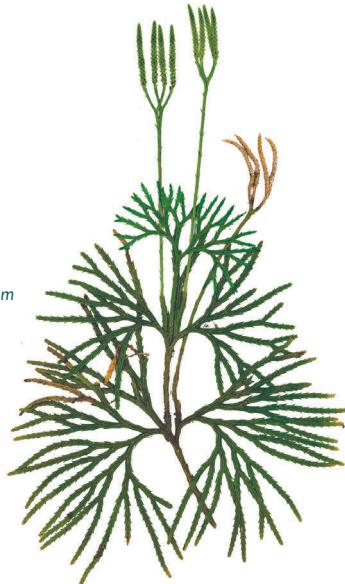
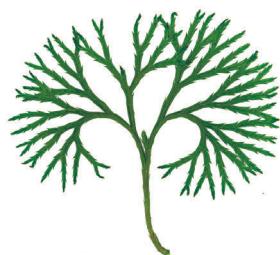


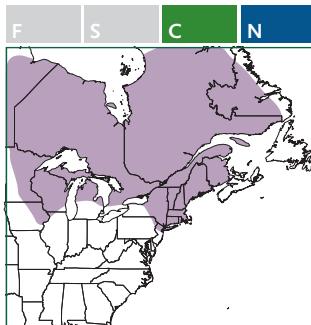
3a.
*Diphasiastrum
complanatum* subsp.
complanatum

IMAGE COURTESY OF THE C. V. STARR VIRTUAL HERBARIUM
OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN (NY 02578510).



3b.
*Diphasiastrum
digitatum*





Diphasiastrum complanatum subsp. *complanatum*

COMMON NAME(S) Northern ground-cedar, northern running-pine

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Lycopodium complanatum*

STATUS Native, somewhat common

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Dry, open forests and slopes; also occurs in Greenland, Europe, and Asia (a second subspecies, *D. complanatum* subsp. *montellii*, has been described from Europe)

Plants are terrestrial and can form large colonies. **Stems** are horizontal and long creeping, sitting against the substrate or underneath litter, with small, linear, appressed leaves. **Upright shoots** are up to 44cm tall, with an erect central axis that has small, pointed, appressed leaves up to 3.2mm long and 1.1mm wide. Horizontal **branches** are up to 4.4mm wide including the leaves, bright to dark green, flat in cross section, and irregularly branched, with conspicuous annual growth constrictions. Leaves on the branches are pressed against the branch for at least half their length, making the branches themselves appear green. Leaves are linear to lanceolate, with pointed tips that spread away from the branch axis. The leaves on the upper surface of the branches are up to 2mm long and 1.2mm wide; the lateral leaves are up to 7.3mm long and 2.1mm wide; and the leaves on the underside of the branches are the smallest, up to 1.5mm long and 0.9mm wide. **Peduncles** are up to 8.5cm long and slender, with minute leaves, and 1 or 2 strobili per peduncle, at the ends of short stalks.

Strobili are up to 25mm long and do not end in sterile tips. $2n=46$ (diploid).

A



B

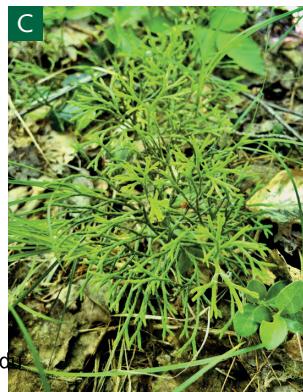


A. Plants of *Diphasiastrum complanatum* subsp. *complanatum*.

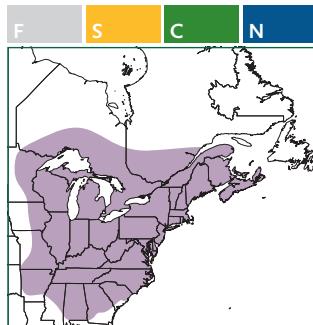
B. Branches with appressed leaves and annual growth constrictions.

C. Young plants with bright green new foliage.

C



FAMILY: LYCOPODIACEAE



Diphasiastrum digitatum

COMMON NAME(S) Southern ground-cedar, southern running-pine

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Lycopodium digitatum*

STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), common

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Forested and shrubby habitats, sometimes open meadows

Plants are terrestrial and can form large colonies. **Stems** are horizontal and long creeping, sitting against the substrate or underneath litter, with small, linear, appressed leaves. **Upright shoots** are up to 50cm tall, with an erect central axis that has small, pointed, appressed leaves up to 3.5mm long and 1mm wide. Horizontal **branches** are up to 3.9mm wide including the leaves, bright to dark green, flat in cross section, and irregularly branched, without conspicuous annual growth constrictions. Leaves on the branches are pressed against the branch for at least half their length, making the branches themselves appear green. Leaves are linear to lanceolate, with pointed tips that spread away from the branch axis. The leaves on the upper surface of the branches are up to 1.5mm long and 0.9mm wide; the lateral leaves are up to 5.5mm long and 2mm wide; and the leaves on the underside of the branches are the smallest, up to 1mm long and 0.7mm wide. **Peduncles** are up to 12.5cm long, thick and stout, with minute leaves, and 2–4 strobili per peduncle, at the ends of short, branched stalks. **Strobili** are up to 40mm long and may end in sterile tips up to 11mm long. $2n=46$ (diploid).



A



B



C



A. A colony of *Diphasiastrum digitatum*.

B. Fertile plants.

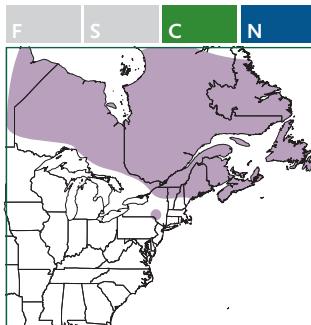
C. Close-up of strobili.

D. Dichotomous branching.

E. Strobili that have released their spores.

E





Diphasiastrum sitchense

COMMON NAME(S) Sitka clubmoss

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Lycopodium sitchense*

STATUS Native, uncommon

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Open meadows, conifer forests, rocky areas above tree line; also occurs in western North America and Asia

Plants are terrestrial and can form large colonies. **Stems** are horizontal and long creeping, sitting against the substrate or underneath litter, with small, linear, appressed leaves. **Upright shoots** are mostly 12cm tall or less but can be up to 17.5cm tall, branch near the base, do not have a clear central axis, and have small, linear, appressed leaves. **Horizontal branches** are up to 2.5mm wide including the leaves, bright to dark green, round in cross section, and irregularly branched, with annual growth constrictions, but these are not obvious. Leaves on the branches are pressed against the branch for less than half their length, with the tips spreading outward, and leaves are arranged in pseudowhorls of 2 and 3 leaves. Leaves are all alike in size, up to 5.6mm long and 0.9mm wide, with sharply pointed tips. **Peduncles** are absent, or if present are up to 1cm long at most. **Strobili** are up to 38mm long and do not have stalks, instead sitting directly atop the leafy portion of the shoot. $2n=46$ (diploid).



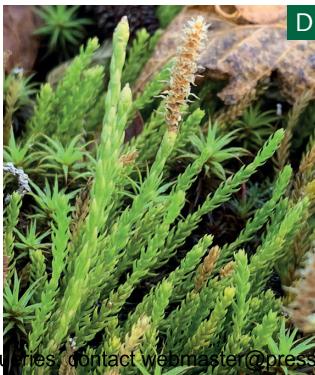
A



B



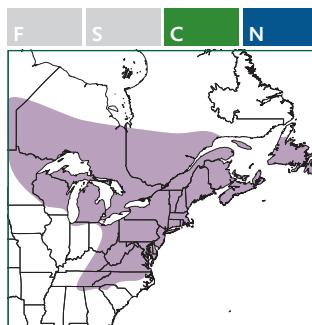
C



D

- A. A colony of *Diphasiastrum sitchense*.
- B. Fertile plants.
- C. Immature stroboli.
- D. Mature stems with dehisced stroboli.

PHOTOGRAPHS A & C BY NOLAN EXE
PHOTOGRAPHS B & D BY GREG RAND



Diphasiastrum tristachyum

COMMON NAME(S) Blue ground-cedar

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Lycopodium tristachyum*

STATUS Native, uncommon

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Open forests and rocky areas, on acidic soils; also occurs in Europe and Asia

Plants are terrestrial and can form large colonies. **Stems** are horizontal and long creeping and are typically buried in the soil, with small, linear, appressed leaves. **Upright shoots** cluster together and are up to 36cm tall, with an erect central axis that has small, pointed, appressed leaves up to 3.4mm long and 1mm wide. Horizontal **branches** are up to 2.2mm wide including the leaves, bluish or grayish green, quadrangular in cross section, and irregularly branched, with conspicuous annual growth constrictions. Leaves on the branches are pressed against the branch for at least half their length, making the branches themselves appear green. Leaves are linear or needlelike, with pointed tips that spread away from the branch axis. The leaves on the upper surface of the branches are up to 1.7mm long and 0.9mm wide; the lateral leaves are up to 7.2mm long and 2mm wide; and the leaves on the underside of the branches are similar to those on top, up to 2mm long and 0.7mm wide. **Peduncles** are up to 15cm long, slender, with minute leaves, and 2–4 strobili per peduncle, at the ends of short, branched stalks. **Strobili** are up to 28mm long and do not end in sterile tips. $2n=46$ (diploid).



B. A colony of *Diphasiastrum tristachyum*.

C. Plants with prominent central axis.

D. Branches with appressed leaves.

D. Strobili that have released their spores.

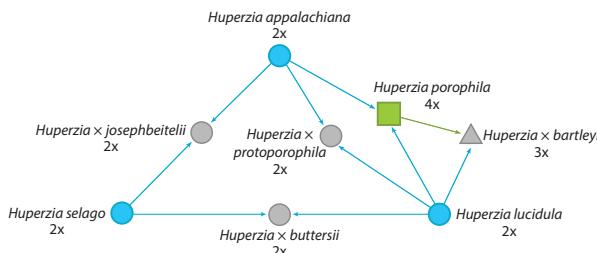


FAMILY: LYCOPODIACEAE

Huperzia is a lycophyte genus whose species can typically be found in the northern part of our region (though a few also occur in the south). The common name of the genus, temperate firmosses, refers to their similarity to miniature fir trees and their occurrence only in the temperate zone. The association with mosses predates our modern understanding of relationships among land plants (see p. 7).

Huperzia species are similar in appearance to some other members of Lycopodiaceae, especially *Spinulum* (p. 111), but can easily be distinguished by not having well-defined strobili; their spore-bearing leaves are located at the tips of the shoots, but they resemble the sterile leaves and you must look closely to discern the sporangia tucked in at the leaf bases. Gemmae (small vegetative propagules) are common in some species and are unique to this genus of lycophytes. They may occur either throughout the shoots, or in 1 or more whorls near the shoot tip. Three of the *Huperzia* species in our eastern flora are diploids and 1 is a tetraploid, and several sterile hybrids are known to form from crosses between them (see figure below). Base chromosome number (x) = 67, 68.

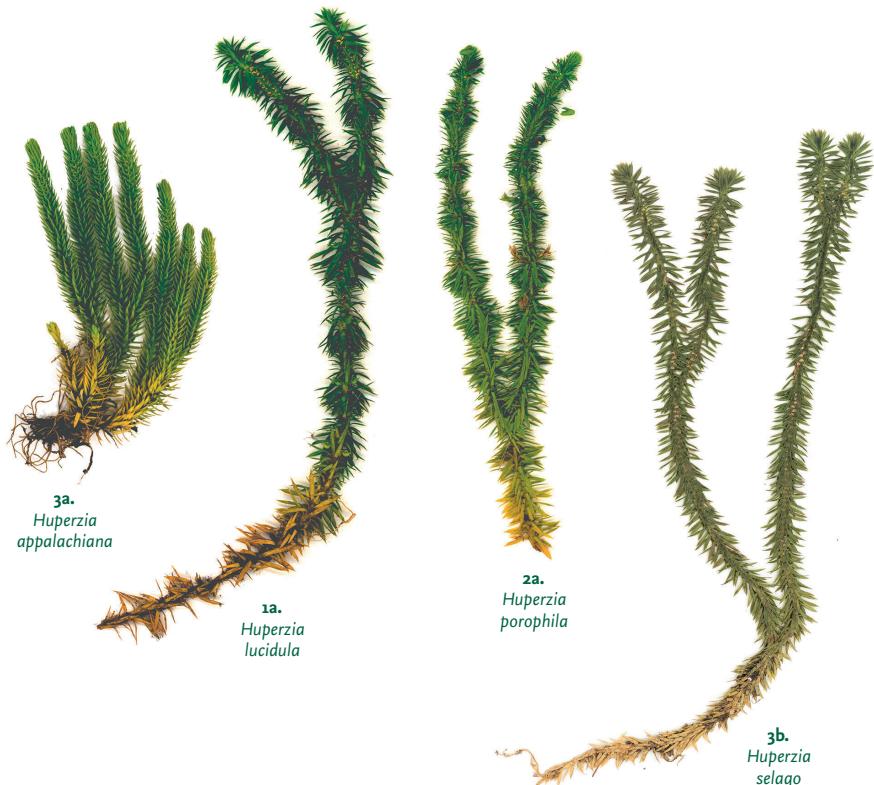
RIGHT: Shoots of *Huperzia porophila* with gemmae (toward the bottom of the left shoot and the middle of the right one). PHOTOGRAPH BY ALAN CRESSLER



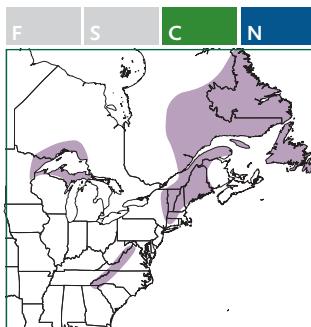
LEFT: Relationships among *Huperzia* species in eastern North America. Blue circles are fertile diploids (2x), the green square is a fertile allotetraploid (4x), and the gray circles and triangle are sterile diploid and triploid hybrids, respectively. Arrows show the direction of genetic contribution from parental toward offspring taxa. For more information about interpreting these figures, see p. 12.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF HUPERZIA IN OUR FLORA:

- 1a** Leaves are widest above the middle, with an obovate overall shape; leaves spread away from the shoot axis and have at least a few distinct teeth along the margins; annual growth constrictions are conspicuous *Huperzia lucidula*
- 1b** Leaves are widest at the base, with a lanceolate overall shape; leaves point upward and have no teeth or only a few small teeth; annual growth constrictions are indistinct or absent 2
- 2a** Leaves are lanceolate but the sides are parallel for most of the leaf length; stomata are present on both surfaces of the leaf (hand lens required for viewing), but fewer than 50 are present on the upper leaf surface *Huperzia porophila*
- 2b** Leaves are lanceolate to ovate or triangular; stomata are present on both surfaces of the leaf, but more than 60 are present on the upper surface 3
- 3a** The sterile leaves are of 2 kinds, with those near the base of the shoots much longer and more spreading than those farther up; gemmae can be found throughout the shoots *Huperzia appalachiana*
- 3b** The sterile leaves are all alike; gemmae occur in only a single whorl near the shoot tip *Huperzia selago*



HUPERZIA SELAGO IMAGE COURTESY OF THE C. V. STARR VIRTUAL HERBARIUM OF THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN (NY 02433096)



Huperzia appalachiana

COMMON NAME(S) Mountain firmoss

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Huperzia appressa*, *Huperzia selago* subsp. *appressa*, *Lycopodium selago* subsp. *appressum*

STATUS Native, uncommon

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Typically on damp but exposed, rocky cliffs or talus slopes, occasionally on thin soils; also occurs in Greenland

Plants are terrestrial. **Stems** are compact and erect. **Shoots**

are erect, up to 10cm tall, and often form clusters. If shoots branch, they do so dichotomously. Annual growth constrictions are typically not distinct. **Leaves** at the base of the shoots are distinctly larger and more spreading than those farther up the shoot, which are more closely pressed against the shoot. Leaves are up to 6mm long and widest at their base (lanceolate in overall shape to ovate or even triangular) and have entire **margins** with no teeth. Stomata are present on both surfaces and are numerous (more than 60) on the upper surface. **Sporangia** occur on the upper surfaces of the tip-most leaves, tucked in at the leaf bases. **Gemmae** occur throughout the shoots. $2n=134$ (diploid).



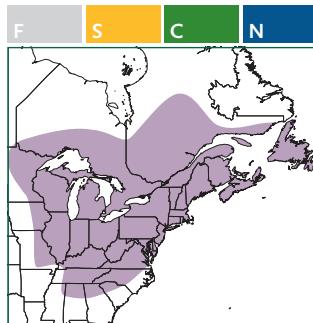
A. A colony of *Huperzia appalachiana*.



B. Plants.



C. Fertile leaves and gemmae.



Huperzia lucidula

COMMON NAME(S) Shining firmoss

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Lycopodium lucidulum*

STATUS Native (endemic to North America), common

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Shady conifer or hardwood forests; also occurs sporadically farther west in the U.S. and Canada

Plants are terrestrial. **Stems** are compact and erect. **Shoots** are erect, up to 20cm tall, and often form clusters. If shoots branch, they do so dichotomously. Annual growth constrictions are distinct along the shoots. **Leaves** are similar in size and shape along the length of the shoot. Leaves are up to 12mm long and widest above the middle of the leaf (obovate in overall shape) and have distinctly toothy **margins**. Stomata are visible only on the bottom surface of the leaf. **Sporangia** occur on the upper surfaces of the tip-most leaves, tucked in at the leaf bases. **Gemmae** occur in a single whorl toward the shoot tip. $2n=134$ (diploid).



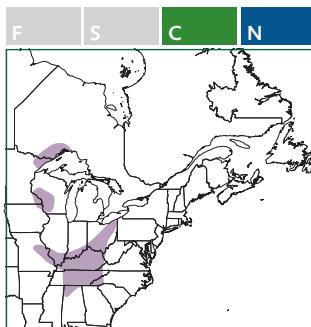
A. Plants of *Huperzia lucidula*.

B. A shoot with dichotomous branching.

C. Fertile section of the stem.

D. Fertile leaves with sporangia.

E. Shoot tip with gemmae.



Huperzia porophila

COMMON NAME(S) Rock firmoss

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Lycopodium porophilum*

STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), uncommon

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Typically in rocky woods on damp, shaded (or occasionally more exposed) sandstone substrates

Plants are terrestrial. **Stems** are compact and erect. **Shoots** are erect, up to 15cm tall, and often form clusters. If shoots branch, they do so dichotomously. Annual growth constrictions are

typically not distinct. **Leaves** are similar in size and shape along the length of the shoot. Leaves are up to 8mm long and widest at their base (lanceolate in overall shape), but the sides are parallel for most of the leaf length. Leaves have nearly entire **margins** with no or only a few small teeth. Stomata are present on both surfaces but are sparse (fewer than 50) on the upper surface.

Sporangia occur on the upper surfaces of the tip-most leaves, tucked in at the leaf bases.

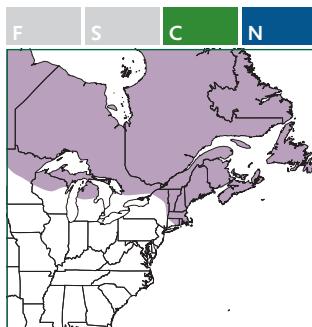
Gemmae occur in 1–3 whorls toward the tips of the shoots. $2n=268$ (tetraploid).



A. Fertile plants of *Huperzia porophila*.

B. Fertile section of stem, with gemmae.

C. Lower surfaces of leaves, with stomata (small white dots)..



Huperzia selago

COMMON NAME(S) Northern firmoss

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Lycopodium selago*

STATUS Native, uncommon

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Damp habitats including swamps, conifer woods, and along streams, moist cliffs, and old trails; also occurs in western North America, Europe, and Asia

Plants are terrestrial. **Stems** are compact and erect. **Shoots** are erect, up to 15cm tall, and often form clusters. If shoots branch, they do so dichotomously. Annual growth constrictions are typically not distinct. **Leaves** are similar in size and shape along the length of the shoot. Leaves are up to 8mm long and are widest at their base (lanceolate in overall shape to ovate or even triangular). Leaves have nearly entire **margins** with no or only a few small teeth. Stomata are present on both surfaces and are numerous (more than 60) on the upper surface. **Sporangia** occur on the upper surfaces of the tip-most leaves, tucked in at the leaf bases. **Gemmae** occur in a single whorl toward the shoot tip. $2n=134$ (diploid).

A



A. Plants of *Huperzia selago*.

B



B. Fertile section of stem, with gemmae.

C. Top-down view showing gemmae.



ALL PHOTOGRAPHS BY NATE MARTINEAU

FAMILY: ISOETACEAE

Isoetes is a genus of lycophytes commonly known as quillworts or Merlin's grasses. This is perhaps the most intriguing and enigmatic group of plants in our fern and lycophyte flora; the members of this genus are unique in their appearance and lifestyle, in ways that lead to their being easily overlooked in nature. All *Isoetes* species are perennials and associate closely with water. Many species are fully submerged aquatics, while others are emergent but rooted in permanent water, and still others are only seasonally inundated, occurring in ephemeral water bodies and becoming essentially terrestrial once these waters have receded or dried up. The vast majority of the 200+ quillwort species known worldwide require acidic or at least circumneutral substrates; very few can tolerate limy or nutrient-rich soils. The ability of most *Isoetes* to grow in these relatively sterile conditions may reduce competition from other plants, but it also greatly limits the possible geographic extent of their occurrence in eastern North America.

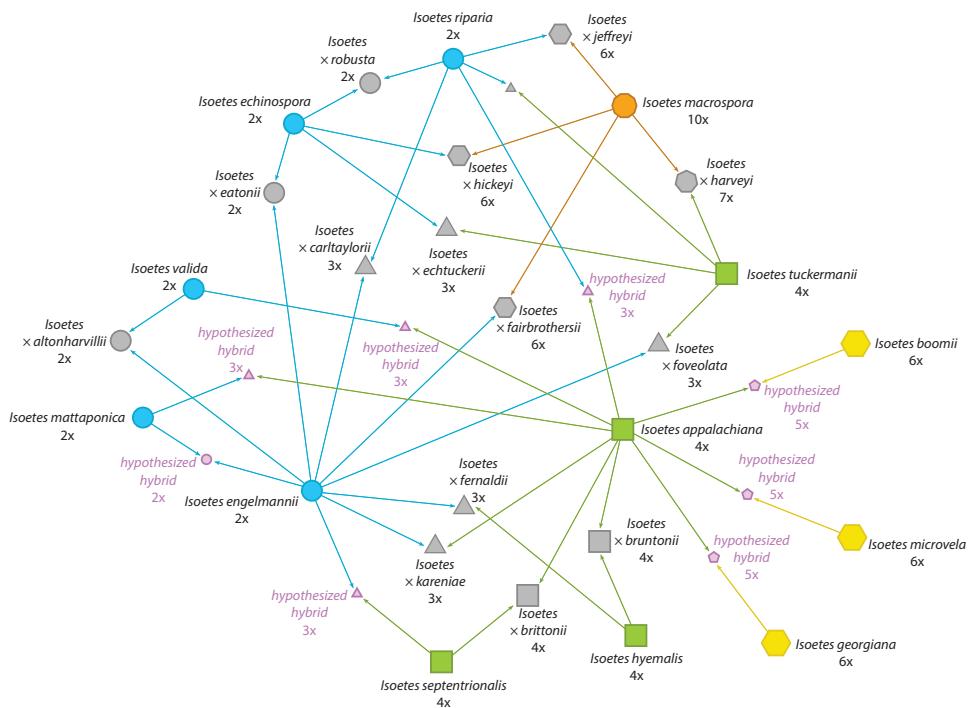
Quillworts in our region can be categorized within three distinct groupings of habitat and seasonality: 1) rock outcrop and ephemeral meadow species, which have the shortest growing season, appearing in late winter to early spring but becoming dormant and usually invisible aboveground by early summer; 2) woodland swamp species that develop in late spring and are evident aboveground into late summer or early fall; and 3) fully aquatic species that develop in mid to late summer, mature well into autumn, and often remain evident until freeze-up. Their aquatic nature makes it unlikely that you will encounter these plants on the average hike; often they will be found only by a targeted search. Despite an inconspicuous overall appearance (most quillworts look like a tuft of grass or an upright bundle of pine needles), the unique morphological features of their appearance and structure will become clear upon closer inspection (see the *Isoetes* section in the description of lycophyte morphology on p. 20).

In addition to their distinctive appearance and watery habit, *Isoetes* species are noteworthy for several additional reasons. First, unlike most plants, they absorb CO₂ through their roots and expel oxygen into the soil. A red color is often evident in the substrate around the roots of many aquatic quillworts, and it is literally rust, caused by oxidation. They also employ CAM photosynthesis, an alternative photosynthetic pathway to the one employed by most plants, which is particularly interesting in *Isoetes* because CAM photosynthesis is typically seen in plants adapted to arid and desert habitats. The CAM process is especially useful for plants growing where photosynthetic productivity is limited by environmental stress (e.g., in deserts) or sterility (e.g., nutrient-poor, aquatic habitats).

Quillworts are extremely prone to hybridization and polyploidy, and this has been the primary route for the formation of new species in our region. Ploidy—the number of sets of chromosomes in an organism—has provided critical insights into the classification, taxonomy, and relationships of quillworts. The genus may have the most complicated network of interspecies hybridization of any group in the North American pteridophyte flora (see figure below), and over a dozen sterile hybrids involving eastern North American species have been formally described. New hybrids continue to be identified regularly, as do sexual species, and it seems likely that significant diversity still remains to be discovered. The base number of chromosomes in the genus is 11, and all distinct North American species of *Isoetes* have even ploidial levels (e.g., a diploid will have 2n=22 chromosomes, a tetraploid 2n=44 chromosomes, etc.). Odd-numbered sets of chromosomes reflect hybrids between parents of different ploidial levels (e.g., a triploid with 2n=33 or a pentaploid with 2n=55), and these are always sterile (though even-numbered fertile hybrids, between parents at the same ploidial level, are also known). Hybrid plants are most often first detected by their aborted, sterile megasporangia, which vary in appearance and size, with a mix of ornamentation

features from both parental taxa. All members of the family Isoetaceae are heterosporous, with separate female megaspores and male microspores.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the name of this genus can be spelled legitimately in two ways: *Isoetes* and *Isoëtes* are both technically correct and acceptable spellings. The former is used here for simplicity. Base chromosome number (x) = 11.



Relationships among *Isoetes* species in eastern North America. Blue circles are fertile diploids (2x), green squares are fertile allotetraploids (4x), yellow hexagons are fertile allohexaploids (6x), and the orange dodecagon is a fertile dodecaploid (10x). Gray circles, triangles, squares, and hexagons are sterile diploids, triploids, tetraploids, and hexaploids, respectively. Purple shapes are hypothesized hybrids that have not yet been found in nature. Large shapes are named taxa, and small shapes are as yet unnamed. Arrows show the direction of genetic contribution from parental toward offspring taxa. For more information about interpreting these figures, see p. 12.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

- Isoetes georgiana* growing in a slow-moving forest stream.
- Isoetes engelmannii* growing in a forest pool.
- Isoetes butleri* growing in a grassy swale that is seasonally flooded.
- Isoetes flaccida* growing in a cypress dome in the Everglades.
- Leaves of *Isoetes flaccida*.
- Outside of a leaf base of *Isoetes engelmannii*.
- Sporangium of *Isoetes engelmannii*, with its outline visible (the velum has been removed).
- Leaf base of *Isoetes flaccida* with ligule still attached.



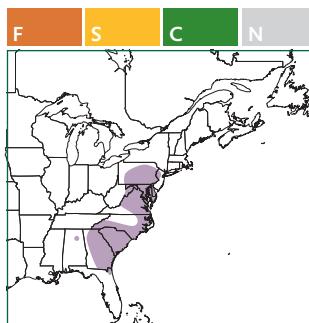
KEY TO THE SPECIES OF ISOETES IN OUR FLORA:

A combination of features can be used to arrive at credible field identifications of quillworts, but most of them cannot be identified by the unaided eye. The examination of megaspor ornamentation at 15 \times (preferably 30 \times) magnification is usually essential, in concert with leaf features (especially velum coverage) and attributes such as plant form, phenology, and site ecology. In order to provide reliable information about ornamentation pattern and spore size, megaspores must be mature (appearing pure white in all but a few species, and never yellow and/or glassy). Spores retained in the soil around the roots from previous growing seasons can often provide the mature material needed for identification.

- 1a** Megaspores from the same plant are variable in shape and size and/or exhibit more than one ornamentation pattern (i.e., they are abortive and not viable); individual plants are often substantially larger than associates (i.e., they display hybrid vigor) *various sterile hybrid species*
- 1b** Megaspores from the same plant are uniform in shape, size, and ornamentation; all plants are approximately the same size 2
- 2a** Plants are terrestrial or occur in seasonally flooded or ephemeral soils, swales, or pools, or on and around rock outcrops (note that plants may be in flowing water early in the season but typically end up on soil later, when the water recedes) 3
- 3a** The velum covers 70–100% of the sporangium; megaspores are gray to black; plants are tiny (<7cm tall) and occur only on isolated granite outcrops (Georgia and South Carolina) 4
- 4a** Plants are up to 5–7cm tall and grow individually; corms are globose; megaspores are densely ornamented with tubercles *Isoetes melanospora*
- 4b** Plants are up to 3–4cm tall and grow in dense mats; corms are elongated; megaspores are somewhat wrinkled or unornamented *Isoetes tegetiformans*
- 3b** The velum covers less than 70% of the sporangium; megaspores are white; plants are substantially larger (8–30cm tall) and variously distributed 5
- 5a** Plants occur on basic substrates (e.g., calcareous, limestone-derived soils); megaspores are generally more than 525 μ m in diameter *Isoetes butleri*
- 5b** Plants occur on acidic or circumneutral substrates (e.g., noncalcareous soils); megaspores are mostly less than 500 μ m in diameter 6
- 6a** The velum covers approximately 40% of the sporangium; megaspore ornamentation is of low, broad walls forming a broken-reticulate pattern; plants are confined to the coastal plain (Georgia) *Isoetes junciformis*
- 6b** The velum covers less than 25% of the sporangium; megaspore ornamentation is of a granular to tubercular (rarely obscurely reticulate) pattern; plants are variously distributed 7
- 7a** Leaves are loosely reflexed to sprawling; megaspores average more than 465 μ m in diameter, with a dense pattern of low, rugulate (wrinkled) ornamentation; plants are rare and found only in the eastern Piedmont *Isoetes virginica*
- 7b** Leaves are stiffly erect to reflexed, or may be erect when immature but sprawling as they mature; megaspores average less than 450 μ m in diameter, with obscurely granular or tuberculate ornamentation 8
- 8a** Plants typically have 35–40 leaves; leaves are 1.5–2.0mm wide and 15–30cm long; the velum covers 5–20% of the sporangium; megaspore ornamentation is plain to densely low tuberculate; plants occur in shaded deciduous swamps *Isoetes melanopoda*
- 8b** Plants typically have 20–30 leaves; leaves are 1.0–1.5mm wide and typically less than 15cm long; the velum covers less than 10% of the sporangium; megaspore ornamentation is tuberculate to wrinkled; plants occur in ephemeral pools on open bedrock outcrops 9
- 9a** Mature megaspores average 455 μ m in diameter, and ornamentation is sparsely wrinkled to short walled or densely tuberculate; plants are found on granite (or rarely sandstone) outcrops *Isoetes piedmontana*

- 9b Mature megaspores average 475 μm in diameter, and ornamentation is typically wrinkled to low tuberculate; plants are found on granite outcrops in the western Piedmont (Alabama) *Isoetes graniticola*
- 2b Plants are aquatic, either submerged or emergent, in permanent water bodies or in persistently extremely wet soils 10
- 10a Plants are in tidal freshwater marsh habitats; megaspores are less than 350 μm in diameter; plants occur on the coastal plain (eastern Virginia) *Isoetes mattaponica*
- 10b Plants are in various freshwater habitats; megaspores are more than 400 μm in diameter; plants are variously distributed 11
- 11a Megaspore ornamentation is a dense, uniform pattern of thin, sharp spines *Isoetes echinospora* subsp. *muricata*
- 11b Megaspore ornamentation is of various patterns other than exclusively spiny 12
- 12a Megaspores average more than 575 μm in diameter 13
- 13a Plants occur in deep lakes or fast-flowing rivers; the velum typically covers less than 30% of the sporangium; leaves are 6–20cm long 14
- 14a Plants occur in fast-flowing water; the walls of the megaspore ornamentation are thick and even in height, forming an uncongested, evenly reticulate pattern; plants occur in the southern Appalachian Mountains (Tennessee) *Isoetes tennesseensis*
- 14b Plants occur in deep or slow-flowing water; the walls of the megaspore ornamentation are thin to moderately thick and uneven in height, forming a congested, unevenly reticulate pattern; plants are widespread in northern lakes *Isoetes macrospora*
- 15b Plants occur in slow-moving stream channels in deciduous swamp forests; the velum covers more than 30% of the sporangium; leaves are 20–45cm long 15
- 15a The walls of the megaspore ornamentation are thick, and the pattern is open and uncongested; the velum covers ca. 60% of the sporangium; plants occur on the coastal plain (southern Georgia) *Isoetes georgiana*
- 15b The walls of the megaspore ornamentation are thin to somewhat thick, and the pattern is congested; the velum covers ca. 30% of the sporangium; plants are somewhat widespread but in localized populations in the southeast *Isoetes boomii*
- 12b Megaspores average less than 575 μm in diameter 16
- 16a The velum covers more than 40% of the sporangium 17
- 17a The velum covers more than 80% (up to 100%) of the sporangium 18
- 18a The leaves are dark green and rigid; plants occur in northern New England and the Canadian Maritimes *Isoetes prototypus*
- 18b The leaves are bright green and flexible; plants occur in the extreme southeast *Isoetes flaccida*
- 17b The velum covers less than 70% (typically 50–60%) of the sporangium 19
- 19a Plants are large (20–35cm tall); leaves are broad and often distinctively yellow green; megaspore ornamentation is tall and ragged reticulate; plants are early emergent (May–June) in woodland seepage areas (rarely fully aquatic) and are widely distributed in the south and southeast *Isoetes valida*
- 19b Plants are small (ca. 10cm tall); leaves are narrow and uniformly green; megaspore ornamentation is obscurely wrinkled; plants are permanently aquatic and are known from a single lake in the northern Appalachian Mountains (Vermont) *Isoetes viridimontana*
- 16b The velum covers less than 40% of the sporangium 20
- 20a The megaspores are typically less than 500 μm in diameter 21

- 21a Leaves are bright green and flexible; megaspor ornamentation is evenly, uniformly reticulate; plants are widely distributed in the eastern U.S. *Isoetes engelmannii*
- 21b Leaves are dull gray green and mostly erect; megaspor ornamentation is densely broken reticulate to almost spiny; plants are confined to freshwater tidal marshes in eastern Canada (Québec) *Isoetes laurentiana*
- 20b The megaspores are typically more than 525 μm in diameter 22
 - 22a Leaves are narrow (mostly less than 2mm wide) and typically dark green to olive green (or reddish); megaspor walls form a moderately to densely congested or almost spiny ornamentation pattern, usually with a distinct, densely spiny band below the equatorial ridge (except in *I. septentrionalis*) 23
 - 22a Leaves are olive green to reddish brown; megaspor ornamentation is reticulate, with walls either tall and narrow or low and broad, and an equatorial band that is either densely papillate (with numerous very small, smooth projections) or broad and plain *Isoetes tuckermanii*
 - 23b Leaves are dark green to olive green; megaspor ornamentation is moderately to densely congested, with walls typically in a cristate or almost spiny pattern, and an equatorial band that is narrow and spiny, or absent 24
 - 24a The velum covers 10–20% of the sporangium; leaves are relatively narrow (1–1.5mm wide) and 20–45cm long; megaspor walls are in a uniformly, moderately congested, almost spiny pattern *Isoetes hyemalis*
 - 24b The velum covers 25–40% of the sporangium; leaves are relatively broad (1.5–2mm wide) and 10–25cm long; megaspor walls are short and branching, in a dense to open, cristate pattern 25
 - 25a Megaspor walls are in a densely crowded, congested ornamentation pattern, with an equatorial band of obscure to conspicuous spines; plants occur in the coastal plain, often in emergent, tidal beach habitats *Isoetes riparia*
 - 25b Megaspor walls are in a dispersed, somewhat broken, network-forming ornamentation pattern, with no equatorial band; plants occur in freshwater habitats *Isoetes septentrionalis*
 - 22b Leaves are broad (ca. 2mm wide or sometimes wider) and bright to dark green; megaspor ornamentation is a moderately reticulate pattern of walls with no or a few short, stand-alone tubercles; the equatorial band is absent or only obscurely spiny below the equatorial ridge 26
 - 26a The megaspor ornamentation pattern is of irregularly reticulate, long, interconnected and short, stand-alone walls; the velum covers ca. 30% of the sporangium; plants are usually deeply rooted, growing in clay or clayey sand; plants occur in the southern coastal plain *Isoetes louisianensis*
 - 26b The megaspor ornamentation pattern is typically of regularly reticulate, mostly interconnected walls and only a few or no isolated, shorter walls; the velum usually covers 10–25% of the sporangium; plants are usually shallowly rooted, growing in sandy or silty-sandy soils 27
 - 27a The velum covers 20–25% of the sporangium; megaspores are 525–550 μm in diameter, with a broadly reticulate ornamentation pattern; plants are widespread *Isoetes appalachiana*
 - 27b The velum covers ca. 10% of the sporangium; megaspores are 530–590 μm in diameter, with a congested and densely reticulate ornamentation pattern; plants occur in the coastal plain (North Carolina) *Isoetes microvelia*



Isoetes appalachiana

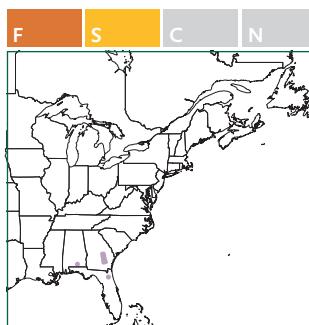
COMMON NAME(S) Appalachian quillwort

NOTABLE SYNONYM(S) *Isoetes engelmannii* var. *georgiana*

STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), somewhat common

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION A variety of aquatic and seasonally emergent habitats, including swampy forests and the shores of clear, flowing rivers and pools; widespread in the eastern and southeastern U.S.

Plants are submerged and amphibious (tolerant of fluctuating water levels). **Leaves** are erect to reflexed, 25–30cm long, 1–2mm wide, and dull olive green, with bases that are whitish green to pale brownish green. The **velum** covers 20% (rarely up to 40%) of the sporangium. **Megaspores** are 525–550 (average 535) μm in diameter. Ornamentation is in a ragged-reticulate pattern with variably tall and irregularly connected walls; a dense but obscure equatorial band of short spines is often present. $2n=44$ (tetraploid).



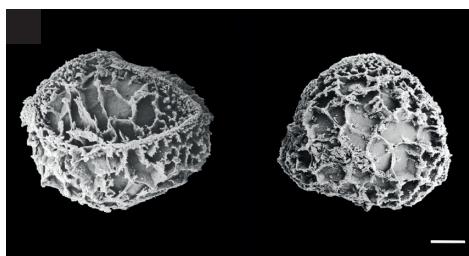
Isoetes boomii

COMMON NAME(S) Boom's quillwort, swamp quillwort

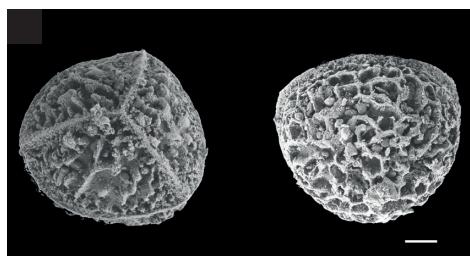
STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), rare

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Shallow, permanently flowing streams in swamps; known from only a handful of locations in the southern U.S.

Plants are submerged to uncommonly emergent. **Leaves** are flexible and pliant, up to 45cm long, and bright green, with pale bases. The **velum** covers ca. 30% of the sporangium. **Megaspores** are 460–610 μm in diameter. Ornamentation is in a congested, cristate to reticulate pattern with moderately thick, interconnecting walls. $2n=66$ (hexaploid).

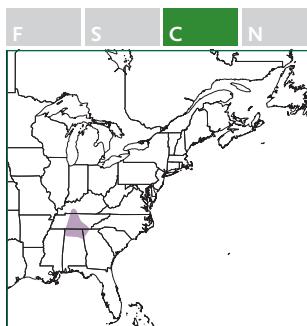


Megaspores of *Isoetes appalachiana*. Left: lateral view; right: distal view. Scale bar 100 μm .



Megaspores of *Isoetes boomii*. Left: proximal view; right: distal view.

FAMILY: ISOETACEAE



Isoetes butleri

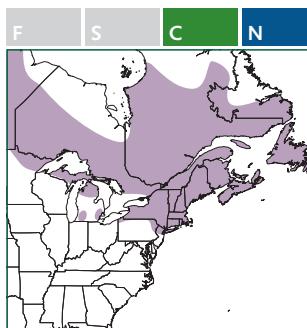
COMMON NAME(S) Butler's quillwort, limestone quillwort

STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), locally uncommon

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION The only North American quillwort known from calcareous substrates, in seasonally wet glades and wet prairies; scattered in the central-southern U.S.

Plants are emergent to terrestrial, in seasonally damp soils in early spring, but become fully terrestrial as water recedes.

Leaves are erect but flexible, up to 15cm long (sometimes longer), and dull gray green to green, with pale bases. The **velum** covers less than 25% of the sporangium. **Megaspores** are 480–650 μ m in diameter. Ornamentation is obscurely tuberculate on a fibrose surface, with an obscure equatorial ridge. $2n=22$ (diploid).



Isoetes echinospora subsp. *muricata*

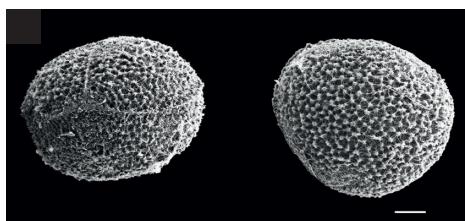
COMMON NAME(S) Spiny-spored quillwort

STATUS Native, somewhat common

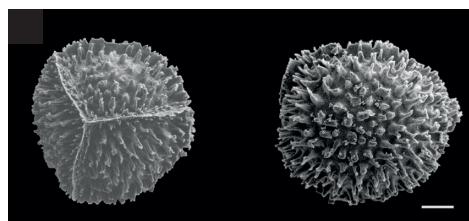
HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Cool, noncalcareous, oligotrophic (i.e., oxygen-rich) lakes and ponds; also occurs in the western U.S. and Canada, and Greenland (a second subspecies, *I. echinospora* subsp. *echinospora*, occurs in Europe and Asia)

Plants are submerged to occasionally emergent late in the season. **Leaves** are pliant, up to 15cm long (rarely 25cm or

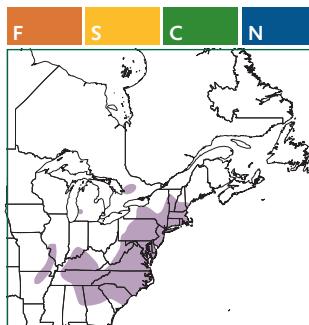
longer), and bright green to brownish green, with pale bases. The **velum** covers less than 50% of the sporangium. **Megaspores** are 450–500 μ m in diameter (rarely up to 550 μ m). Ornamentation is uniformly of sharp spines. $2n=22$ (diploid).



Megaspores of *Isoetes butleri*. Left: lateral view; right: distal view. Scale bar 100 μ m.



Megaspores of *Isoetes echinospora* subsp. *muricata*. Left: proximal view; right: distal view. Scale bar 100 μ m.



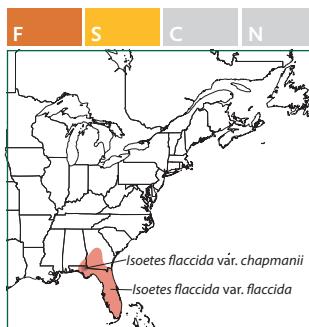
Isoetes engelmannii

COMMON NAME(S) Engelmann's quillwort

STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), formerly common but much reduced in recent decades, especially in New England, because of habitat degradation

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Shallow, cool, freshwater streams, lakes, ponds, and ditches; widely distributed in the east

Plants are submerged to emergent. **Leaves** are pliant, up to 25cm long (rarely up to 40cm), and bright green, with pale bases. The **velum** typically covers 5–10% (rarely up to 20%) of the sporangium. **Megaspores** are 400–480 μm (rarely up to 500 μm) in diameter. Ornamentation pattern is of tall, connected, evenly reticulate walls that are continuous to the equatorial ridge. $2n=22$ (diploid).



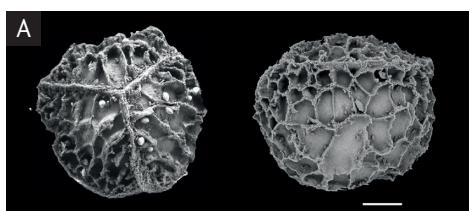
Isoetes flaccida, including varieties *flaccida* and *chapmanii*

COMMON NAME(S) Florida quillwort

STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), rare

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Shallow waters, usually at the edges of marshes, ponds, lakes, streams, and ditches; *I. flaccida* var. *chapmanii* is known only from Jackson County, Florida, while *I. flaccida* var. *flaccida* is more widely distributed, throughout the Florida peninsula and into southernmost Georgia and Alabama

Plants are submerged to emergent. **Leaves** are pliant, up to 60cm long, bright green, and 1.25–1.5mm (var. *chapmanii*) or ca. 1mm (var. *flaccida*) wide. The **velum** covers the entire sporangium. **Megaspores** are ca. 500 μm (var. *chapmanii*) or less than 450 μm (var. *flaccida*) in diameter. Ornamentation is dense with small tubercles (var. *chapmanii*) or more dispersed with broad tubercles and/or loosely interconnected mounds (var. *flaccida*). $2n=22$ (diploid).

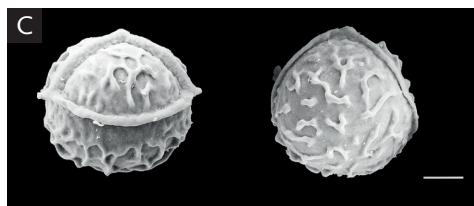


A. Megaspores of *Isoetes engelmannii*. Left: proximal view (note microspores on the megaspore surface); right: distal view. Scale bar 100 μm .



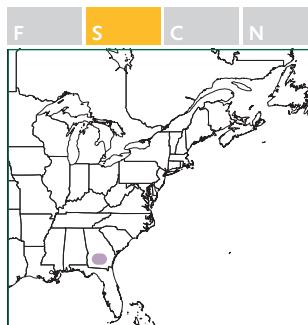
B. Megaspores of *Isoetes flaccida* var. *chapmanii*. Left: lateral view; right: distal view. Scale bar 100 μm .

C. Megaspores of *Isoetes flaccida* var. *flaccida*. Left: lateral view; right: distal view. Scale bar 100 μm .



IMAGES COURTESY OF DANIEL BRUNTON; SEE P. 505 FOR SPECIMEN SOURCE INFORMATION

FAMILY: ISOETACEAE



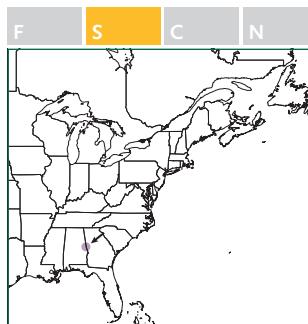
Isoetes georgiana

COMMON NAME(S) Georgia quillwort

STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), rare

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Ephemeral streams in deciduous swamp forests; known only from several small watersheds on the Gulf of Mexico coastal plain in Georgia

Plants are submerged to emergent. **Leaves** are pliant, up to 40cm long, and olive green, with pale bases. The **velum** covers 55–60% of the sporangium. **Megaspores** are 450–650 (average 625) μm in diameter. Ornamentation pattern is open and uncongested, with thick, loosely connected or isolated walls. $2n=66$ (hexaploid).



Isoetes graniticola

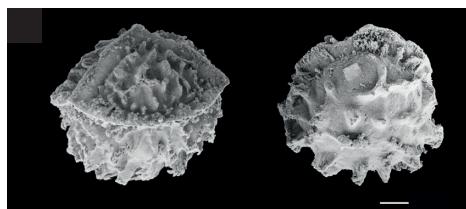
COMMON NAME(S) Flat rock quillwort

NOTABLE SYNONYMS *Isoetes piedmontana*, in part

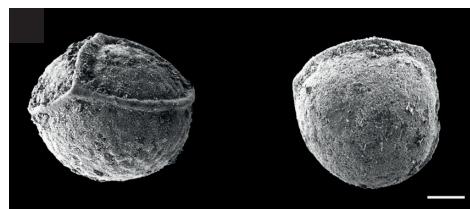
STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), rare

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Shallow, ephemeral pools on flat granite outcrops; known from only a few locations in east-central Alabama

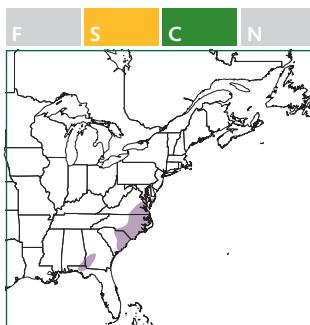
Plants are emergent to terrestrial, in seasonally damp soils, but become fully terrestrial as water recedes. **Leaves** are stiffly erect to broadly arching, up to 10cm long and 1.0–1.5mm wide, and dull brownish green, with whitish-green to blackish-brown bases. The **velum** covers less than 10% of the sporangium. **Megaspores** are 450–525 (average 475) μm in diameter. Ornamentation pattern is smooth or wrinkled to low tuberculate, with low, wide walls, and no distinct equatorial band. $2n=44$ (tetraploid).



Megaspores of *Isoetes georgiana*. Left: lateral view; right: distal view. Scale bar 100 μm .



Megaspores of *Isoetes graniticola*. Left: lateral view; right: distal view. Scale bar 100 μm .



Isoetes hyemalis

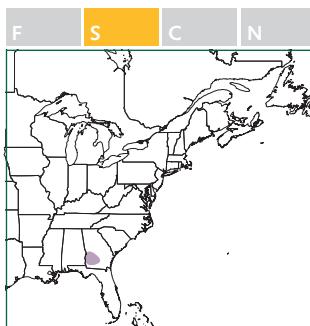
COMMON NAME(S) Winter quillwort

STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), uncommon and local

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Shaded forest streams; widely scattered from the lower Piedmont of Virginia and North Carolina to the Gulf of Mexico coastal plain in southern Georgia and Alabama

Plants are submerged and amphibious (tolerant of seasonally fluctuating water levels). **Leaves** are wiry, 20–45cm long at maturity and 1–1.5mm wide, bright green when young but becoming dark green to dark brownish green with age, with pale bases. The **velum** covers 10–20% of the sporangium.

Megaspores are 400–580 (average 525) μm in diameter. Ornamentation is of tall walls with irregular crests in a congested, somewhat reticulate pattern, with thin tubercles and a spiny equatorial band. $2n=44$ (tetraploid).



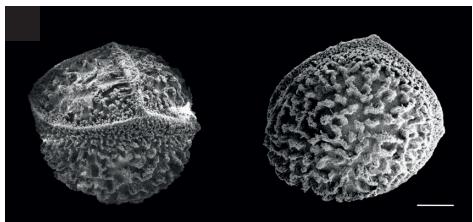
Isoetes junciformis

COMMON NAME(S) Rush quillwort

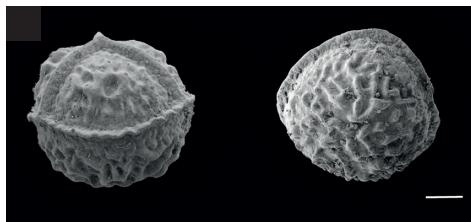
STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), rare

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Open swales along the margins of deciduous swamp forest; known from only a few locations (some of which have been lost, either to human activity or natural successional processes) on the Gulf of Mexico coastal plain in Georgia

Plants are seasonally flooded and then emergent in saturated soils, becoming fully terrestrial as water recedes. **Leaves** are erect, 35–40cm long at maturity, and dull, pale green to grayish green, with pale to white bases that may have a light pinkish-purple cast, especially in young leaves. The **velum** covers ca. 40% of the sporangium, and the surface of the sporangium is whitish with brown streaks. **Megaspores** average 460 μm in diameter. Ornamentation is in a prominent, ragged-reticulate pattern of low, broad, smooth-topped walls. $2n=44$ (tetraploid).

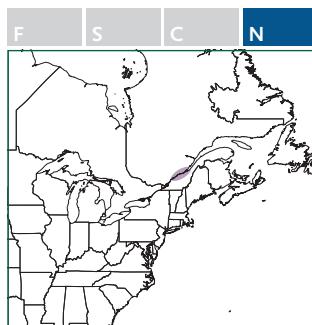


Megaspores of *Isoetes hyemalis*. Left: lateral view; right: distal view. Scale bar 100 μm .



Megaspores of *Isoetes junciformis*. Left: lateral view; right: distal view. Scale bar 100 μm .

FAMILY: ISOETACEAE



Isoetes laurentiana

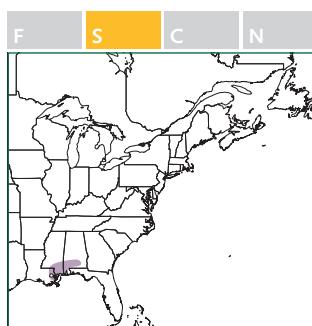
COMMON NAME(S) St. Lawrence quillwort

NOTABLE SYNONYM(S) *Isoetes tuckermanii*, in part

STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), rare but locally abundant

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Known only from freshwater tidal marshes along the St. Lawrence River in Québec

Plants are amphibious (tolerant of twice-daily emergence from tidally fluctuating fresh water). **Leaves** are erect to arching, up to 12cm long, and dull gray green, with paler bases that have a brownish cast. The **velum** covers up to 25% of the sporangium. **Megaspores** average 460µm in diameter. Ornamentation is of densely broken-reticulate to almost spiny and ragged-crested walls, with a very narrow equatorial band of fine spines. $2n=44$ (tetraploid).



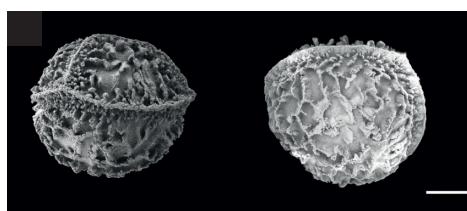
Isoetes louisianensis

COMMON NAME(S) Louisiana quillwort

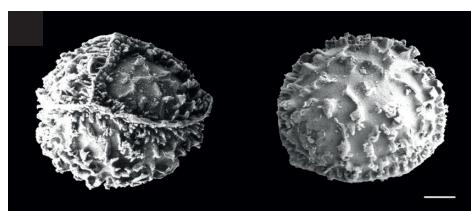
STATUS Native (endemic to eastern North America), rare

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION Forest creeks with clay or clayey sand; on the Gulf of Mexico coastal plain between Alabama and Louisiana

Plants are submerged to emergent and typically deeply rooted. **Leaves** are pliant, up to 40cm long, and bright green, with paler bases. The **velum** covers ca. 30% of the sporangium (sometimes more). **Megaspores** average 500–550µm in diameter (rarely up to 600µm). Ornamentation pattern is irregularly reticulate, with both long, interconnected and short, stand-alone walls; the lower side of the equatorial ridge is typically obscurely, coarsely spiny. $2n=44$ (tetraploid).



Megaspores of *Isoetes laurentiana*. Left: lateral view; right: distal view. Scale bar 100µm.



Megaspores of *Isoetes louisianensis*. Left: lateral view; right: distal view. Scale bar 100µm.

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Italics: synonyms of species names

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A note on common names: Because there are no rules governing the creation or application of common names, they can be extremely confusing, and are not nearly as useful or precise as the Latin binomials that are the “official” names for species. Multiple species can share the same common name, and individual species often have multiple common names, as the index below shows. Especially misleading are the common names for species that reference what were historically assumed to be their relationships or generic affinities, when those species are recognized today as belonging to a different group. For example, the two species of *Deparia* in our flora, *D. acrostichoides* and *D. petersenii*, each have a common name that includes the term “spleenwort”. This is a relic of their historical inclusion in *Asplenium*, the genus commonly called the spleenworts. While both of these species are now recognized as belonging to the genus *Deparia*, their old common names persist.

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