Lycopodiella serpentina

Bog Clubmoss

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**Family** Lycopodiaceae

Photo: © Darrell Kraehenbuehl

**Conservation Significance**

In SA, the majority of the distribution is confined within the AMR, disjunct from the remaining extant distribution in other States. Within the AMR the species' relative area of occupancy is classified as 'Extremely Restricted'. Relative to all AMR extant species, the species' taxonomic uniqueness is classified as 'Very High'.

This species may be conspecific with the more widespread Lycopodiella caroliniana but this has not been determined, and some Australian researchers use this latter name.

**Description**

Clubmoss with bristle-like foliage, brittle and pale green in colour. Leaves tiny. Main stems (rhizomes) creeping on the surface and rooting at the branch junctions at regular intervals, simple to much branched.

Synonym: Lycopodium serpentinum.

**Distribution and Population**

Also occurs in WA, QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS and NZ. In SA, only known from the vicinity of Mount Compass.

Post-1983 AMR filtered records from near Mount Compass and Stipiturus CP.

Attempts to relocate extant populations in 2008 were unsuccessful (J Quarmby pers. comm. 2009). However this species is difficult to detect, especially in overly dense swamp vegetation, consequently some plants may be still be present at relocation sites (J Quarmby pers. comm. 2009).

Pre-1983 AMR filtered records indicate it was formerly more common in areas around Mount Compass.

**Habitat**

In AMR, grows on continuously wet peaty soils.

At Stipiturus CP occurs on black saturated mounds growing near Leptospermum continentale, Sprengelia incamata, Baumea tetragona and Utricularia dichotoma. Recorded at Nangkita Swamp on a damp peaty bank with Lycopodiella lateralis.

Other habitat associations include Leptospermum continentale shrubland with sedge and fern understorey; Phragmites sp. and/or Typha sp. grassland with emergent Viminaria juncea, Acacia retinodes and a sedge understorey.

Within the AMR the preferred broad vegetation group is Wetland.

Within the AMR the species' degree of habitat specialisation is classified as 'Very High'.

**Biology and Ecology**

Sporangia are borne on the adaxil surface of sporophylls which are up to 15mm long and are scattered along the stems.

A symbiotic relationship exists with a fungus in the gametophyte stage.

**Aboriginal Significance**

Post-1983 records indicate the AMR distribution occurs in southern Kaurna and Ngarrindjeri (bordering Peramangk Nation).

**Threats**

Threats include habitat loss and/or modification (e.g. water regimes, livestock grazing and/or trampling) and other direct human impacts. Competition with overly dense Leptospermum sp. and Coral Fern is also a threat (J Quarmby pers. comm. 2009).
Additional current direct threats have been identified and rated for this species. Refer to the main plan accompanying these profiles.

**References**

Note: In some cases original reference sources are not included in this list, however they can be obtained from the reference from which the information has been sourced (the reference cited in superscript).


