**Lycopodium dendroideum** Michx.

synonym: *Lycopodium obscurum* L. (misapplied), *Lycopodium obscurum* L. var. *dendroideum* (Michx.) D.C. Eaton
treelike clubmoss
Lycopodiaceae - clubmoss family
status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive
rank: G5 / S2

**General Description:** Adapted from Flora of North America (1993+):
Rhizomatous perennial. Upright shoots treelike in shape, with numerous,
strongly differentiated branchlets. Lower stem leaves are spreading,
prickly, 3.5-4 x 0.9-1 mm. Side branchlets round in cross section.
Leaves spreading to ascending, in 6 ranks (2 upperside, 2 lateral, 2
underside) or sometimes in whorls of 4, equal in size, linear, 2.4-5.5 x
0.5-1.2 mm, margins entire, tip pointed.

**Reproductive Characteristics:** Spore-bearing conelike structures sessile,
1-7 on tip of upright shoot, 12-55 mm long. Sporophylls 3.5 x 3.5 mm.
Produces spores June to July.

**Identification Tips:** *Lycopodium annotinum*, *L. clavatum*, and *Lycopodiella
inundata* have leafy horizontal stems along the surface of the ground.
*Lycopodium complanatum* has horizontal stems either on the surface or
shallowly buried and flat branchlets with 4-ranked, overlapping leaves.

**Range:** Asia, most of Canada, AK, south to WA, ID, WY, SD, and the
northeastern and midwestern U.S.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Rock outcrops, talus, or boulder fields; often with a
significant moss and organic debris layer. Ground or shrub cover may be
dense. The species tolerates a range of light conditions. Some sites are
in the ecotone between a meadow or wetland and adjacent forest.
Associated species include western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), vine
maple (*Acer circinatum*), rusty menziesia (*Menziesia ferruginea*),
huckleberry (*Vaccinium* spp.), western teaberry (*Gaultheria ovatifolia*), stiff
clubmoss (*Lycopodium annotinum*), groundcedar (*L. complanatum*), and
twinflower (*Linnaea borealis*). Elevations in WA: 240-1100 m (800-3650
ft).

**Comments:** This taxon is easily damaged by physical disturbance;
threats include timber harvest and recreational activities that lead to
trampling. It is rare in several states and the Yukon.

**References:** Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 2; Hickey 1977;
Lellinger 1985.

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Adapted from *Field Guide to the Rare Plants of Washington*
http://www.washington.edu/uwpress/search/books/CAMFIE.html