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### *Huperzia selago*

[Synonyms : *Lycopodium selago*, *Urostachys selago*]

**FIR CLUBMOSS** is an evergreen perennial. It has creeping stems coated in tiny needle-like, leaves.

It is also known as *Chvostník jedľovitý* (Slovak), Cloth of gold, Fire clubmoss, Fir moss, Golden herb, *Ketunlieko* (Finnish), *Lopplummer* (Swedish), *Luslummer* (Swedish), *Otteradet ulvefod* (Danish), *Plavuň jedlová* (Czech), *Plavuň jedlovitý* (Slovak), *Selago*, *Tannenbärlapp* (German), *Teufelsklaue* (German), and *Vranec jedlový* (Czech).

Warning – fir clubmoss is potentially poisonous and, like stag's-horn clubmoss (*Lycopodium clavatum*), could affect the central nervous system.

*Selago* is the genus name *Selago* meaning 'like plants in that genus'.

It is an emblem of the Scottish MacRae clan. The Scots used fir clubmoss as an alternative to alum for fixing dyes.

As with other clubmosses, fir clubmoss has been used to make fireworks.

In veterinary medicine it has been applied as a pesticide on animals' coats.

Medicinally, its properties are similar to those of stag's-horn clubmoss (*Lycopodium clavatum*) and are contained in the leaves which today are only used in homoeopathic treatments.