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Pilularia globulifera

PILLWORT is a semi-aquatic fern. Native to western Europe (including Britain) it has erect fronds of grass-like leaves.

It is also known as Common pillwort, *Klotgräs* (Swedish), *Mičovka kulkonosná* (Czech), *Ormio* (Finnish), *Pillenfarn* (German), *Pilulaire à globules* (French), and *Trådbräken* (Swedish).

It is a protected plant in the Irish Republic under the Flora Protection Order 1987, in Northern Ireland under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, and in Britain receives general protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. It appears to be an endangered species throughout western Europe.

Globulifera is derived from Latin *globosus* (round, spherical) or *globus* (ball, globe sphere) and *-fer* (bearing, carrying) meaning 'bearing round or globe-like clusters' with reference to the spores.

Pillwort is occasionally grown as an ornamental plant.