

which the succeeding generation is born. These minute vehicles of generation are produced in flattened, kidney-shaped, leathery sporanges or seed cases (Figure I) situated in the axils of the simple leaves, and when ripe separating into two valves, thereby liberating the tiny yellow spores. These spores, being rich in oil, are highly inflammable, and are in consequence used in stage effects to produce mimic lightning.

The several species are arranged in three groups according to the shape of the leaves protecting the spore cases, and their position on the plant.

In the first class are those species in which the leaves covering the spore cases are similar to those of the stem. Of these we have two on Prince Edward Island - (1) the Shining Club-moss (Lycopodium lucidulum, Michx) (Fig. 2) with its dark green, shining leaves, turned downwards, and arranged in

alternately longer and shorter series -and, (2) the Brittle-stemmed Club-moss (L. inundatum, inundatus - over-flowed) of the bogs. In this latter the leaves at the end of the branches are gathered into a slightly club-shaped spike, suggesting the aptness of the name "Club-moss." (I may here say that the botanical name, Lycopodium, meaning wolf's foot, is supposed to have been given to the

family because of the fancied resemblance of the branching roots of some of the species to a wolf's foot - an evidence of an easily satisfied imagination.)

In the remaining species the spore cases are in the axils of yellowish, scale-like leaves, broader and shorter than those of the stem, and arranged in cone-like spikes at the end of the branches. In some of these species (constituting our second division) the stems are thickly clothed with leaves up to the base of the spike, while in others, (our third division) the fertile branches have minute leaves, and hence the spore-bearing spikes appear long stalked. Illustrating

the second class, and represented in Figure 3, is the Ground Pine (L. obscurum L.) a bushy little growth like a miniature tree, so often associated with mayflowers in bouquets. Our Figures 4 and 5 represent the third and last division. The former is the Running Pine, our commonest one like long, thick wooly cords, irregularly and coarsely branched, the fertile part like two or more elongated cones. This plant is well named L. clavatum L. ("set with studs of gold.")

The last species illustrated (Fig.5) is the Trailing Christmas-green, which might well be called Cedar Club-moss because of its flattened fan-shaped branches by which it is easily distinguished.

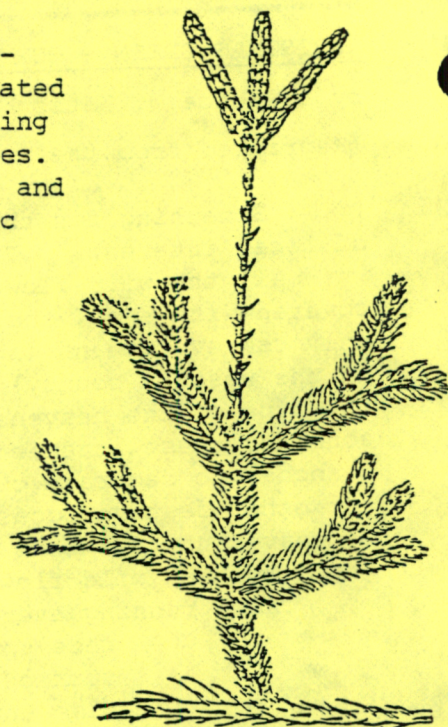


Fig. 4. Lycopodium clavatum L.
Running Pine.

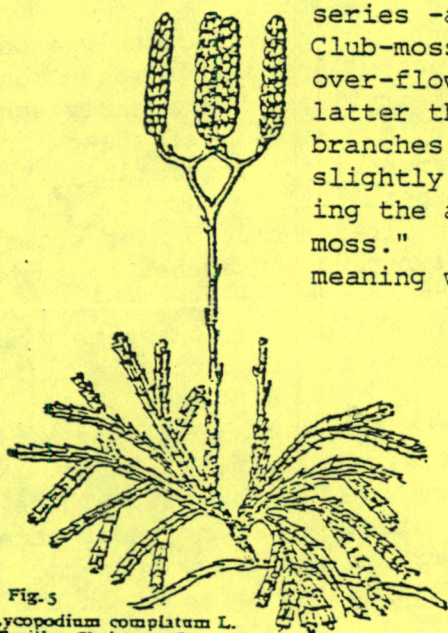


Fig. 5
Lycopodium complatum L.
Trailing Christmas Green

MERRY CHRISTMAS