

4. SELAGINELLA, Spring.

SELAGINELLACEAE

Stems leafy, usually much branched, more slender or smaller than in *Lycopodium*. Leaves small, entire or minutely serrate, inserted all round the stem but in four rows. Spore-cases of two kinds, small ones filled with minute, powdery spores called *microspores*, and larger containing 1 to 6 larger spores called *macrospores*, all opening in 2 to 4 valves and sessile in the axils of bracts in terminal spikes.

The genus has the same wide range as *Lycopodium*. Of the five Australian species three extend into tropical Asia, or at least into the Malayan Archipelago, and one of them is also in America, two others appear to be endemic, but the species have in many instances been so multiplied by monographists that the exact limits of the really distinct ones cannot be given without a careful revision of the whole genus. The generic character, the presence of two kinds of spores, is probably constant, but requires a close observation to verify it. The habit however generally suffices to distinguish it from *Lycopodium*, although the first two of our species have the foliage of *Lycopodium* (but smaller) and the last two of *Lycopodium* have that of *Selaginella*.

Small erect plants. Stem-leaves all similar. Spikes slender, the bracts imbricate in 4 rows.

Stems from a branching base, simple, about 1 in. long . . . 1. *S. Preissiana*.

Stems branching upwards, 2 to 6 in. or sometimes more . . . 2. *S. uliginosa*.

Stem-leaves in two outer rows distichous and spreading, 2 inner rows closely appressed. Spikes slender, the bracts imbricate in 4 rows.

Stems bare at the base, ascending or erect, very much branched upwards to a length and breadth of 6 to 10 in. (in outline) . . . 3. *S. flabellatum*.

Stems diffuse or creeping and much branched . . . 4. *S. concinna*.

Stem-leaves and habit of *S. concinna* or much smaller. Spike oblong, the bracts spreading, nearly resembling the stem-leaves . . . 5. *S. Belangeri*.

N.I.B.

SELAGINELLACEAE

Selaginella ciliaris
(Retz.) Spring.