

***Diphasiastrum alpinum* (L.) Holub Alpine Clubmoss**

Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Least Concern

VC5 Extinct; VC6 Absent

An evergreen procumbent perennial herb growing in short grass on mountains and moors, on damp peat or thin acidic soils overlying rocks. In Somerset, only ever known from a few localities on Exmoor. First recorded at the summit of Dunkery, where it was collected in 1832 by Richard Ball Jr, the specimen incorporated in Herb. Clark, now at **BIRM** (<http://herbariaunited.org/specimen/260162/>). It was also listed at Dunkery by W.H. Coleman (Murray, 1896); the last record for Dunkery was a specimen collected by A.W. Parsons in 1873 in **TTN**, where there is also a specimen collected “at the border of Exmoor” in 1850 by T.F. Dymock. This species was later found near the top of the Punchbowl on Winsford Hill, by Mrs Jenner in 1921, and on Bye Common above Winsford, by Mrs Browning in 1924. The last record in Somerset was at Chetsford Water, where it was seen in 1927 by N.G. Hadden. Widely distributed in the uplands of Scotland, northern England and North Wales, *Diphasiastrum alpinum* was at its southern limit at its former sites in Somerset.