Gaelic names for Scottish fern species

Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

All of Scotland's native species of ferns and their allies (horsetails, clubmosses and quillworts) now have 'official' Gaelic names, following the successful completion of a project led by Scottish Natural Heritage. The list recommends names for the 85 species, and the groups to which they belong (eg clubmosses, spleenworts, polypodies).

Names in bold are those recommended for 'standard' usage by the independent committee on Gaelic fern nomenclature (2016). (N) means a new name, coined by the committee.

Support papers available at http://gaelic.snh.gov.uk/foillseachaidhean/goireasan/

- Gaelic names for fern recorded in literature
- Gaelic terminology for parts of ferns and their life cycle
- Project rationale

Beurla ***English***	**Saidheansail** ***Latin***	**Gàidhlig thaghte** ***Proposed Gaelic***	**F/B** ***M/F***	**Ciall na Gàidhlig** ***Gaelic meaning***
The Ferns and their Allies		**Na Rainich agus Lusan Caidreabhach**		
Clubmosses		**Garbhagan**		
clubmoss (coitcheann)		**garbhag (N)**	B	little rough one
fir clubmoss	*Huperzia selago*	**garbhag an t-slèibhe**	B	the clubmoss of the upland
stag's-horn clubmoss	*Lycopodium clavatum*	**garbhag a' mhadaidh-ruaidh (N)**	B	the fox's clubmoss (sporophylls reminiscent of a fox's tail)
interrupted clubmoss	*Lycopodium annotinum*	**garbhag shlabhraidheach (N)**	B	chain-like clubmoss (waisted as in linked chain)
hare's-foot clubmoss	*Lycopodium lagopus*	**garbhag na coise maighiche (N)**	B	hare's foot clubmoss
marsh clubmoss	*Lycopodiella inundata*	**garbhag lèana (N)**	B	marsh clubmoss
alpine clubmoss	*Diphasiastrum alpinum*	**garbhag ailpeach (N)**	B	alpine clubmoss

Issler's clubmoss	*Diphasiastrum complanatum*	**garbhag Issler (N)**	B	Issler's clubmoss
lesser clubmoss	*Selaginella selaginoides*	**garbhag bheag (N)**	B	small clubmoss
Quillworts		**Luibhean cleite**		
quillwort (coitcheann)		**luibh cleite**	B/F	quill herb ie quillwort
spring quillwort	*Isoetes echinospora*	**luibh cleite bog (N)**	B/F	the soft quillwort
quillwort	*Isoetes lacustris*	**luibh cleite cruaidh (N)**	B/F	the rigid quillwort. told apart from *I. echinospora* by rigid leaves
Horsetails		**Earbaill eich**		
horsetail (coitcheann)		**earball eich**	F	horse's tail
field horsetail	*Equisetum arvense*	**earball eich cumanta (N)**	F	common horsetail
water horsetail	*Equisetum fluviatile*	**earball eich uisge (N)**	F	water horsetail
rough horsetail	*Equisetum hyemale*	**earball eich garbh (N)**	F	rough horsetail
marsh horsetail	*Equisetum palustre*	**earball eich lèana (N)**	F	marsh horsetail
shady horsetail	*Equisetum pratense*	**earball eich dubharach**	F	shady horsetail
wood horsetail	*Equisetum sylvaticum*	**earball eich coille (N)**	F	wood horsetail
great horsetail	*Equisetum telmateia*	**earball eich mòr**	F	great horsetail
variegated horsetail	*Equisetum variegatum*	**earball eich caol**	F	slender horsetail
Ferns		**Rainich**		
fern (coitcheann)		**raineach**	B	fern
small adder's-tongue	*Ophioglossum azoricum*	**teanga nathrach bheag**	B	small adder's tongue
adder's-tongue	*Ophioglossum vulgatum*	**teanga nathrach chumanta (N)**	B	common adder's tongue
royal fern	*Osmunda regalis*	**raineach rìoghail**	B	royal fern
moonwort	*Botrychium lunaria*	**lus nam mìos**	F	the plant of the months
parsley fern	*Cryptogramma crispa*	**raineach pheirsill**	B	parsley fern
maidenhair fern	*Adiantum capillus-veneris*	**failtean fionn**	F	fair head-band
pillwort	*Pilularia globulifera*	**feur a' phiobair**	F	the pepper grass (grass-like with peppery taste)

marsh fern	*Thelypteris palustris*	**raineach lèana**	B	marsh fern
bracken	*Pteridium aquilinum*	**raineach mhòr**	B	great fern
beech fern	*Phegopteris connectilis*	**raineach fhaidhbhile**	B	beech fern
lemon-scented fern	*Oreopteris limbosperma*	**raineach an fhàile**	B	odorous fern - smells of lemon when bruised
hard-fern	*Blechnum spicant*	**raineach chruaidh**	B	hard fern
water fern	*Azolla filiculoides*	**raineach uisge (N)**	B	water fern
rustyback	*Ceterach officinarum*	**raineach ruadh**	B	rusty fern (underside of frond)
Filmy-ferns		**Rainich Chòinnich**		
filmy-fern (coitcheann)		**raineach chòinnich**	B	mossy fern
Tunbridge filmy-fern	*Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*	**raineach chòinnich Tunbridge (N)**	B	Tunbridge's filmy-fern
Wilson's filmy-Fern	*Hymenophyllum wilsonii*	**raineach chòinnich MhicUilleim (N)**	B	Wilson's filmy-fern
Killarney fern	*Trichomanes speciosum*	**raineach Chill Airne**	B	Killarney fern
Polypodies		**Clach-rainich**		
polypody (coitcheann)		**clach-raineach**	B	stone fern (habitat)
southern polypody	*Polypodium cambricum*	**clach-raineach leathann**	B	broad polypody (frond broader than *P. vulgare*)
intermediate polypody	*Polypodium interjectum*	**clach-raineach mheadhanach**	B	intermediate polypody
(common) polypody	*Polypodium vulgare*	**clach-raineach chaol**	B	narrow polypody (frond narrower than *P. cambricum*)
Spleenworts		**Sealg-rainich**		
spleenwort (coitcheann)		**sealg-raineach (N)**	B	spleen fern
black spleenwort	*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*	**sealg-raineach uaine (N)**	B	green spleenwort
rustyback	*Asplenium ceterach*	**sealg-raineach ruadh (N)**	B	rusty spleen fern
sea spleenwort	*Asplenium marinum*	**sealg-raineach mhara (N)**	B	sea spleenwort
lanceolate spleenwort	*Asplenium obovatum*	**sealg-raineach shleaghach (N)**	B	lance shaped sleenwort
wall-rue	*Asplenium ruta-muraria*	**rù a' bhalla**	F	wall rue

hart's-tongue	*Asplenium scolopendrium*	**teanga an fhèidh**	B	the deer's tongue
forked spleenwort	*Asplenium septentrionale*	**sealg-raineach ghobhlach (N)**	B	forked spleenwort
maidenhair spleenwort	*Asplenium trichomanes*	**sealg-raineach dhubh-ghasach (N)**	B	black-stemmed spleenwort (stipe and rachis are black)
green spleenwort	*Asplenium viride*	**sealg-raineach uaine-ghasach (N)**	B	green-stemmed spleenwort (stipe and rachis are green)
Lady-ferns		**Rainich Moire**		
lady-fern (coitcheann)		**raineach Moire**	B	fern of Mary
alpine lady-fern	*Athyrium distentifolium*	**raineach Moire ailpeach**	B	alpine lady-fern
lady-fern	*Athyrium filix-femina*	**raineach Moire chumanta (N)**	B	common lady-fern
Oak Ferns		**Rainich Dharaich**		
oak fern (coitcheann)		**raineach dharaich (N)**	B	oak fern
limestone oak fern	*Gymnocarpium robertianum*	**raineach dharaich chloich-aoil (N)**	B	limestone fern
oak fern	*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*	**raineach dharaich chumanta (N)**	B	common oak fern
Bladder-ferns		**Frith-rainich**		
bladder-fern (coitcheann)		**frith-raineach**	B	dwarf fern
brittle bladder-fern	*Cystopteris fragilis*	**frith-raineach chumanta (N)**	B	common bladder-fern
mountain bladder-fern	*Cystopteris montana*	**frith-raineach beinne (N)**	B	mountain bladder-fern
Dickie's bladder-fern	*Cystopteris dickieana*	**frith-raineach Dickie (N)**	B	Dickie's bladder-fern
Woodsias		**Mion-rainich**		
woodsia (coitcheann)		**mion-raineach (N)**	B	diminutive fern
alpine woodsia	*Woodsia alpina*	**mion-raineach ailpeach (N)**	B	alpine woodsia
oblong woodsia	*Woodsia ilvensis*	**mion-raineach ruadh (N)**	B	rusty woodsia (has abundant brown hairs and scales)
Shield-ferns		**Ibhigean**		
shield-fern (coitcheann)		**ibhig**	B	Cameron derives it from ibh 'a drink', as

				it was taken for worms
hard shield-fern	*Polystichum aculeatum*	**ibhig chruaidh**	B	hard shield-fern
holly-fern	*Polystichum lonchitis*	**ibhig chuilinn (N)**	B	holly shield-fern
soft shield-fern	*Polystichum setiferum*	**ibhig bhog**	B	soft shield-fern
Male- & Buckler-ferns		**Marc-rainich**		
male- & buckler-fern (coitcheann)		**marc-raineach**	B	horse-fern
hay-scented buckler-fern	*Dryopteris aemula*	**marc-raineach phreasach (N)**	B	furrowed (crimped) horse-fern
scaly male-fern	*Dryopteris affinis*	**mearlag**	B	etymology unclear
Borrer's male-fern	*Dryopteris borreri*	**marc-raineach Borrer (N)**	B	Borrer's horse-fern
narrow male-fern	*Dryopteris cambrensis*	**marc-raineach Chuimreach (N)**	B	Welsh horse-fern
narrow buckler-fern	*Dryopteris carthusiana*	**marc-raineach chaol (N)**	B	slender (narrow) horse-fern
broad buckler-fern	*Dryopteris dilatata*	**marc-raineach nan radan (N)**	B	the rats' horse-fern (Clyne says it grows in haunts of rats)
northern buckler-fern	*Dryopteris expansa*	**marc-raineach nan radan thuathach (N)**	B	the northern rats' horse-fern
male-fern	*Dryopteris filix-mas*	**marc-raineach chumanta (N)**	B	common horse-fern
mountain male-fern	*Dryopteris oreades*	**marc-raineach an t-slèibhe**	B	the horse-fern of the upland
	Dryopteris pseudodisjuncta	**marc-raineach Arannach (N)**	B	Arran horse-fern. No English name.
scaly buckler-fern	*Dryopteris remota*	**marc-raineach sgrathach (N)**	B	scaly horse-fern
rigid buckler-fern	*Dryopteris submontana*	**marc-raineach righinn (N)**	B	rigid horse-fern