Questions 34–38

Selaginella lepidophylla is a species of desert plant in the spikemoss family (Selaginellaceae). S. lepidophylla is noted for its ability to survive almost complete desiccation; during dry weather in its native habitat, its stems curl into a tight ball and uncurl only when exposed to moisture. The outer stems of Selaginella lepidophylla bend into circular rings in a relatively short period of desiccation, whereas inner stems curl slowly into spirals due to the hydro-actuated strain gradient along their length. It is native to the Chihuahuan Desert.

Common names for this plant are resurrection plant, resurrection moss, and stone flower, doradilla, dinosaur plant. It is called a resurrection plant because this plant can be revived with only a little water. After Selaginella lepidophylla gets wet, it turns green.

This plant can also be used as a herbal medicine. An infusion (tea) is made by steeping a tablespoon of dried material in hot water and the tea is used as an antimicrobial in cases of colds and sore throat. Doradilla and stone flower are the example of Selaginella lepidophylla used for tea.