Lepidodondrales, The Giant Scale Tree

- Evolved from the Middle Devonian lycopods
- These once-giant "pole trees" now live on through small herbaceous species





- Lived for only 10-15 years
- Reproduced using spores
- Had a thin central core of wood surrounded by a thick layer of tissue
 - That means high winds and storms could easily flatten forests









- Formed extensive coal measure swamp forests in the Euramerican province (Northern Hemisphere)
- Diamond-shaped leaf scars
- Composed of green photosynthetic tissue
- Trunks would have most likely been green



- Thrived during the Carboniferous
- Lived in wet conditions
- Went extinct by the mid-Permian
 - Due to inefficient movement of water and nutrients through their stems
- Now make up important contributions to coal seams

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