

common polypody *Polypodium virginianum*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Pteridophyta

Class: Filicopsida

Order: Polypodiales

Family: Polypodiaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The common polypody is a small fern that grows in mats. Each triangular-shaped leaf is about 12 inches long. Leaves may be erect or flat on the substrate. The leathery, dark green leaf is divided into from 10 to 20 pairs of leaflets. The smooth, entire leaflets are about equal in size from the bottom of the leaf to about halfway along the rachis. Then they become gradually shorter toward the pointed tip.

BEHAVIORS

The common polypody may be found in the southern one-third and northern one-third of Illinois. It grows in shady areas on sandstone rock. Spores are produced from June through October.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2017. Biodiversity of Illinois.