

DRYOPTERIS CELSA (W. Palmer) Knowlton, W. Palmer, & Pollard
Log Fern

FAMILY: Dryopteridaceae

HABIT: Perennial with fronds 65-120 x 15-30 cm long, petiole 1/3 length of frond; sporulating July to September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Dryopteris celsa* is similar to *Dryopteris clintoniana* but has larger fronds. The sori of *D. celsa* are about midway between midvein and margin segments of the pinnae compared to nearer to the midvein than margin of segments of *D. clintoniana*. Hybrids are frequent and make identification difficult.

TOTAL RANGE: NJ and se. PA to VA, SC, and n. GA, w. to s. IL, e. MO, and TX; disjunct in w. NY and sw. MI.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There is one post-1980 record from Lake County.

HABITAT: Moist, shaded habitats such as swamp forests and woodland seeps, often in acidic substrates.

HAZARDS: Alteration of hydrology and deforestation with resultant drying out of habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature sporulating material.

COMMENTS: *Dryopteris celsa* is a fertile allotetraploid. It is derived from the hybridization of *D. goldiana* and *D. ludoviciana*. It frequently grows with other wood-ferns and hybridizes with them. Hybrids in the genus *Dryopteris* are frequent in nature and make identification difficult. *D. celsa* hybridizes with six species. It should be sought throughout the Ohio Lake Plain.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+. Flora of North America North of Mexico. 4+ vols. New York and Oxford. (The Dryopteridaceae is treated in Volume 2.)

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.



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Created: 9/2000 Richard Gardner