

PHEGOPTERIS CONNECTILIS (Michx.) Watt
Long Beech-fern

FAMILY: Thelypteridaceae

SYNONYMS: *Dryopteris phegopteris* (L.) Christens; *Phegopteris polypodioides* Fee;
Thelypteris phegopteris (L.) Slossen

HABIT: Deciduous, pinnate-pinnatifid or bi-pinnatifid fronds arising from long-creeping rhizome; spores mature early to mid-summer.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species and *P. hexagonoptera* are often included in the genus *Thelypteris*, although they can be distinguished from other members of that genus by their lack of indusia. *P. connectilis* has pinna lobes with entire margins and lower pinnae which are not winged at the rachis. *P. hexagonoptera* has toothed margins on the pinna lobes and lower pinnae which are winged at the rachis.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; in North America s. to NC, TN, IA and OR.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Hocking, Jackson, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, and Summit counties. There are pre-1980 records from Ashtabula, Knox, and Trumbull counties.

HABITAT: Mostly in acidic soil or rocks in full shade; seeps on cliff faces.

HAZARDS: Opening of canopy by logging.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect fronds with mature sori; leave rhizome intact.

COMMENTS: Most of the botanical literature refers to this taxon as *Thelypteris phegopteris* (L.) Slossen. This species should be sought throughout northeastern Ohio and possibly southeastern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Billington, C. 1952. Ferns of Michigan. Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 240 pp.

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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.

Holtum, R.E. 1969. Studies in the family Thelypteridaceae. The genera *Phegopteris*, *Pseudophegopteris* and *Macrothelypteris*. *Blumea* 17: 5-32.

Lellinger, D.B. 1985. A field manual of the ferns and fern-allies of the United States and Canada. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C. 389 pp.



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