

PTERIDIUM AQUILINUM (L.) Kunth var. PSEUDOCAUDATUM (Clute) Heller  
Tailed Bracken

FAMILY: Dennstaedtiaceae

HABIT: Long-lived, upright, herbaceous perennial; leaves mostly 5-15 dm tall, glabrous, petiole stem-like from a creeping rhizome; leaves deciduous.

SIMILAR SPECIES: It is similar to the common variety *P. aquilinum* var. *latiusculum* but terminal segments are sparsely pilose to glabrous and prolonged.

TOTAL RANGE: Southeastern U.S., n. to MO, s. IN, s. OH, and the coastal plain to Cape Cod MA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Jefferson and Pike counties. Pre-1980 specimens are from Meigs and Scioto counties.

HABITAT: Open pine or oak woods and ridgetop openings in well-drained, acid soils.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species with closure of the forest canopy.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good since the plants are long-lived and form extensive colonies; probably benefits from occasional fires.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect fronds with mature sori.

COMMENTS: This variety can be mistaken for the common variety. It may be more frequent than current records indicate. It should be sought in suitable habitats throughout unglaciated Ohio. Holmgren (1998) contains an excellent illustration of this variety. Tyron (1941) reports intermediates between the varieties.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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.

Holmgren, Noel H. 1998. Illustrated companion to Gleason and Cronquist's manual. The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 937 pp.

Jacobs, C.A. and J.H. Peck 1993. *Pteridium*. 201-205. In *Flora of North America Volume 2 Pteridophyta and Gymnosperms*. Oxford U. Press, New York.

Page, C. 1976. The taxonomy and phytogeography of bracken--a review. *Bot. J. Linn. Soc.* 73:1-34.

Tyron, R. M. Jr. 1941. A revision of the genus Pteridium. *Rhodora* 1-31; 37-67.



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