

WOODSIA ILVENSIS (L.) R. Brown  
Rusty Woodsia

FAMILY: Aspleniaceae (Polypodiaceae)

HABIT: Tufted perennial, fronds evergreen, 5-22 cm; sporulating July-Sept.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species may be mistaken for *W. obtusa*, but can be distinguished by its jointed stipe and the abundance of hairs on the indusium. The rhizome is much more scaly than that of *W. obtusa*.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; in North America s. to OH, MI, IL and MN, and s. in the mts. to NC.

STATE RANGE: The species was collected twice in the late 1800's in Lake County.

HABITAT: In full sun on xeric rock exposures, usually on granite, but occasionally on shale.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody vegetation, trampling, rock climbing.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Complete, mature specimens are needed for identification; note rhizome scales.

COMMENTS: This species is attributed to Ohio based on the two nineteenth century specimens which have only vague locational data. However, since these specimens were obtained by different people on different dates, it appears reasonable to attribute this species to Ohio. The species should be sought throughout northeastern Ohio in rocky areas.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

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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