

ASPLENIUM RESILIENS Kunze
Black-stem Spleenwort

FAMILY: Aspleniaceae (Polypodiaceae)

HABIT: Tufted perennial from a short, upright rootstalk; fronds evergreen, to 30 cm; sporulating July-Sept.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles the common Ebony Spleenwort (*A. platyneuron*). The two species may be separated as follows: *A. platyneuron*-- fronds dimorphic, pinnae serrate to lacerate, rachis dark brown; *A. resiliens*-- fronds not dimorphic, pinnae nearly entire, rachis glossy, black. Possibly confused with Maidenhair Spleenwort (*A. Trichomanes*), but easily distinguished from that species by its obviously auricled pinnae.

TOTAL RANGE: S. PA to IL, MO, and OK, s. to N. South America.

STATE RANGE: This species has only been collected once in Ohio. There is a 1900 collection from Adams County. However, this specimen appears to be missing from the Ohio State Herbarium.

HABITAT: In semi-shade or full sun in well-drained calcareous substrates; often in cedar glades or on limestone cliffs.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species as a result of succession; rock climbing.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good since appropriate habitat still exists in Adams County. The species is not uncommon in central Kentucky.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature fronds, leave the rhizome intact.

COMMENTS: The species should be sought in calcareous openings in Adams County.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cranfill, R. 1980. Ferns and fern allies of Kentucky. Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission Scientific and technical series No 1. 284 pp.

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

Snyder, L.H., Jr. and J.G. Bruce. 1986. Field guide to the ferns and other pteridophytes of Georgia. Univ. of Georgia Press, Athens. 270 pp.

Taylor, W.C. 1984. Arkansas ferns and fern allies. Milwaukee Public Museum. 262 pp.



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