

BOTRYCHIUM MULTIFIDUM (Gmel.) Rupr.
Leathery Grape-fern

FAMILY: Ophioglossaceae

SYNONYMS: *B. matricariae* (Schrank) Spreng.

HABIT: Single dimorphically branched, evergreen frond arising from underground rhizome; spores mature August-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: All species of *Botrychium* have fronds with a sterile and a fertile branch. *B. multifidum* has a short-stalked, sterile, bipinnate to bipinnatifid frond branch with segments of about equal size and shape. The fertile frond branch is long-stalked.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; in North America s. to OH, IN, IL, IA, NE, NM and CA, and s. in the mts. to NC.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Carroll, Henry, Lucas and Tuscarawas counties. There are pre-1980 records from Ashtabula, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Erie, Fulton, Licking, Lorain and Summit counties.

HABITAT: Meadows and open woods, cemeteries and lawns, even when closely mowed.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect specimens with mature sori.

COMMENTS: This species may only rarely reproduce sexually. Individual plants may live as long as 100 years (Stevenson 1975). It often grows together with other members of the genus in mixed populations. This species should be sought throughout northern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

Clausen, R.T. 1938. A monograph of the Ophioglossaceae. Mem. Torrey Bot. Club 19: 1-171.

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.

Svenson, D.W. 1975. Taxonomic and morphological observations on *Botrychium multifidum* (Ophioglossaceae). Madrono 23: 198-204.



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