

OPHIOGLOSSUM ENGELMANNII Prantl
Limestone Adder's-tongue

FAMILY: Ophioglossaceae

HABIT: Perennial with deciduous fronds, 1-2 dm.; sporulating May, June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially similar to the common adder's-tongue ferns (*O. vulgatum* and varieties) from which it may be distinguished by details of venation. Perhaps confused with sterile plants of trout lily (*Erythronium* spp.).

TOTAL RANGE: NW. VA to s. IL and e. KS, s. to FL, AZ, and Mexico.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams County.

HABITAT: In semi-shade on calcareous substrates; open woods, barrens, prairies.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession; soil compaction.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens; avoid over- collecting.

COMMENTS: Adder's-tongue ferns are easily overlooked and probably are more frequent than generally thought. However, this species does seem restricted in Ohio to the Lexington Plain.

After sporulation, the fronds quickly wither. Thus, there is but a limited period in which populations can be located.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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