

# SOME FERNS FROM DECATUR AND HARDIN COUNTIES, TENNESSEE<sup>1</sup>

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The territory included in this study covers a strip of land along the western side of the Tennessee River extending from the Benton-Decatur County line on the north to the Mississippi-Tennessee state line on the south—a distance of about seventy-five miles. The chief object in this study was to determine what species might be found in the limestone region of the above territory. There is very little territory in Hardin County with limestone outcroppings but in Decatur County there is an alternation of rough, rocky limestone regions coming down to the river bank, and wide, level alluvial bottoms which may extend for a few miles back to higher lands where no rock reaches the surface. Most of the rocky region is dry and lacking in springs and small streams.

Specimens were collected from the over-hanging cliffs along the river and as far as ten miles back from the stream. The collecting was done from late in April to November 15, 1936, chiefly in May and June.

The scientific names assigned to the ferns in this report are those given by W. A. Anderson, Jr. (1930-1931), as quoted by Woodruff (1935-1936), except in the case of *Asplenium platyneuron* (L.) Oakes var. *serratum* (Miller) which is from Gray (1908). We also followed the example of Woodruff in using the common names given by Durand (1928) and, for species not listed by him, the first common name used by Britton and Brown (1913). Both the scientific and common name of the one fern ally is from Britton and Brown (1913). No attempt has been made to follow any particular scientific arrangement of the genera.

## LIST OF FERNS FOUND

*Botrychium virginianum* (L.) Sw. (Rattlesnake Fern.) Common in its typical habitat.

*Osmunda regalis* (L.). (Royal Fern.) It is rather rare in the rocky section studied. It is very probable that it is the variety *spectabilis* that occurs in this section, but we did not have access to means for making a careful check.

*Adiantum pedatum* (L.). (Maiden Hair Fern.) Found in many localities, but usually in small quantities.

*Cheilanthes alabamensis* (Buckley) Kunze. (Alabama Lipfern.) This and the following species are found abundantly in one locality.

*Cheilanthes lanosa* (Michx.) Watt. (Hairy Lipfern.)

*Woodwardia areolata* (L.) Presl. (Narrowleaf Chainfern.) Scarce in the rocky sections but more common in the lower regions.

<sup>1</sup>An oral report, illustrated with herbarium specimens, of the material in this paper was given before the Botanical Section of the Tennessee Academy of Science at the Nashville meeting on November 27, 1936.

*Cystopteris fragilis* (L.) Bernh. (Brittle Fern.) Found in small quantities in scattered localities.

*Cystopteris bulbifera* (L.) Bernh. (Berry Bladderfern.) Rather rare, found chiefly in the northern part of Decatur County.

*Thelypteris noveboracensis* (L.) Nieuwl. (New York Fern.) Not so common as in other sections of West Tennessee.

*Thelypteris palustris* (Salisb.) Schott. var. *pubescens* (Lawson) Fernald. (Marsh Fern.) Apparently confined to the western part of Decatur County.

*Thelypteris hexagnoptera* (Michx.) Weatherby. (Winged Beech Fern.) Scattered but not common.

*Athyrium asplenoides* (Michx.) Desv. (Lowland Lady Fern.) Much less frequent in the limestone regions than elsewhere.

*Athyrium angustifolium* (Michx.) Milde. (Narrowleaf Spleenwort.) The rarest of all the species found.

*Athyrium acrostichoides* (Sw.) Diels. (Silvery Spleenwort.) Only one station found; near Sugar Tree, Tennessee.

*Asplenium platyneuron* (L.) Oakes, var. *serratum* (Miller). (Ebony Spleenwort.) One of the most common ferns in rocky regions.

*Asplenium resiliens* Kze. (Small Spleenwort.) Common in one or two places, but not found elsewhere.

*Asplenium cryptolepis* Fernald. (Wall Rue Spleenwort.) One of the rarer ferns in this section.

*Pteridium latiusculum* (Desv.) Hieron, var. *pseudocaudata* (Clute) Maxon (Bracken). Found in only a few places and abundant in none of these.

*Campptosorus rhizophyllus* (L.) Link. (Walking Fern.) Found in only two places.

*Polypodium polypodioides* (L.) Watt. (Resurrection Fern.) Found on both rocks and trees in this territory.

*Pellea atropurpurea* (L.) Link. (Purple Cliffbrake.) Fairly common in the rocky sections.

*Onoclea sensibilis* (L.). (Sensitive Fern.) Found only in the lower bottom regions; rather rare.

*Woodsia obtusa* (Spring.) Torr. (Common Woodsia.) Common in many places throughout this section.

#### LIST OF FERN ALLIES

*Selaginella apus* (L.) Spring. (Creeping Selaginella.) The only fern ally found in this study.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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