

bladder fern *Cystopteris bulbifera*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Pteridophyta

Class: Polypodiopsida

Order: Polypodiales

Family: Dryopteridaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The bladder fern has long, thin, triangular leaves that are often seen growing over the edges of cliffs. It is not evergreen. On average, each leaf is about eight inches long and three inches wide. However, a leaf may be as long as three to five feet. The leaf is widest at the base, narrowing to a long point. The leaflet is about two inches long and droops at the end. The rachis is yellow. The short, yellow stalk has a black base.

BEHAVIORS

The bladder fern may be found in the Illinois counties that border the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. It grows on limestone cliffs and in woodlands. Spores are produced from June through September.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie Habitats

none

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