

## common adder's-tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Pteridophyta

Class: Filicopsida

Order: Ophioglossales

Family: Ophioglossaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

The common adder's-tongue fern is a small plant that does not have a typical fern appearance. Its one, simple leaf is attached halfway up the single, smooth stalk. The shiny, deep green leaf is about four inches long and one-half inch wide. The fertile spike is at the tip of the stalk. The spike may resemble a snake's tongue, which is how the common name for this plant came into use.

### BEHAVIORS

The common adder's-tongue fern may be found in scattered locations throughout Illinois. It grows in moist woods and on rock ledges. Spores are produced from April through June.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

**bottomland forests**

Woodland Habitats

**bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests**

Prairie and Edge Habitats

**none**

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