

ebony spleenwort *Asplenium platyneuron*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Pteridophyta

Class: Filicopsida

Order: Polypodiales

Family: Aspleniaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The ebony spleenwort is a fern. Each of its leaves may attain a length of about 12 inches and be divided into 18 or more pairs of leaflets. Leaves may be erect or growing along the ground. The stipe and rachis are both dark.

BEHAVIORS

The ebony spleenwort may be found in the southern one-half of Illinois. This fern grows in dry or moist woodlands, fields and along or on walls in well-drained, rocky soil. The ebony spleenwort produces spores from May through September. It grows in groups of two or three plants or in colonies.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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