



ILLINOIS STATUS

common endangered threatened
 native exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.

walking fern

Camptosorus rhizophyllus

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Filicophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The walking fern has leaves that are green throughout the year. Each single, long, pointed leaf grows out from the rootstock at a central point. A leaf may be about six inches long and one inch wide at the heart-shaped base. The triangular-shaped leaf is tough. It is green above and paler on the underside. The green stipe is short and fat with a brown base.

BEHAVIORS

The walking fern occurs in scattered locations statewide in Illinois. It grows in rocky woods. Spores are produced from May through September. When a leaf tip touches and remains in contact with the ground, a new plant can grow from the tip. The plant can spread in this manner, thus the "walking fern" name.

HABITATS

bottomland forests
 coniferous forest
 southern Illinois lowlands
 upland deciduous forest