



ILLINOIS STATUS

common endangered threatened
 native exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: Mississippi and Illinois rivers border counties

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

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

bulblet fern

Cystopteris bulbifera

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

FEATURES

The bulblet fern is also known as the bladder fern. This plant 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 bulblet 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

bottomland forests
 coniferous forest
 southern Illinois lowlands
 upland deciduous forest