



adder's tongue fern

Ophioglossum vulgatum

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

FEATURES

The 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 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

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

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.