



## ILLINOIS STATUS

common       endangered       threatened  
 native       exotic

## ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: northern 1/3 and southern 1/3

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.

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

## common polypody

*Polypodium vulgare*

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

## FEATURES

The common polypody is a small fern that grows in mats. Each triangular-shaped leaf is about 12 inches long. Leaves may be erect or flat on the substrate. The leathery, dark green leaf is divided into from 10 to 20 pairs of leaflets. The smooth, entire leaflets are about equal in size from the bottom of the leaf to about halfway along the rachis. Then they become gradually shorter toward the pointed tip.

## BEHAVIORS

The common polypody may be found in the southern one-third and northern one-third of Illinois. It grows in shady areas on sandstone rock. Spores are produced from June through October.

## HABITATS

bottomland forests  
 coniferous forest  
 southern Illinois lowlands  
 upland deciduous forest