Aspleniaceae
Spleenwort Family

This is a monogeneric family of diverse ferns. Our two species are both of rocky habitats, arising and spreading on fibrous roots. Stipes are very scaly, the fronds pinnate with a few scales and glandular pubescence. Sori are arranged along the veins. Indusia are present, with one side attached.

Asplenium L.

As described above. There are 700 species worldwide, two in NS.

Key to species
A. Rachis dark reddish brown throughout.  
   Asplenium trichomanes
aa. Rachis dark, only at the base.  
   A. trichomanes-ramosum

Asplenium trichomanes L.
Maidenhair Spleenwort; doradille chevelue

Small tufted plants arise from a compact rhizome. Stipe and rachis are reddish–brown and persistent. Scales are blackish with a lighter border. Pinnae are ovate, nearly opposite, toothed. Sori are long and narrow.

Frequents damp shady cliffs and talus, especially on acidic rocks such as granite, basalt and sandstone.
Asplenium trichomanes–ramosum L.
Green Spleenwort; doradille verte

A very small fern resembling Woodsia, but for the elongated sori. Stipe and rachis are green, with a few opposite pinnae. Scales are reddish–brown to black.

Also found along shady streams, cliffs, rocks such as limestone and other basic substrates.

1-1 Aspleniaceae
Scattered in the Cobequids and western Cape Breton.

Ranges from Greenland; NF to ON, south to WI and NY; west coast. Eurasia.

STATUS: YELLOW-listed.