

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



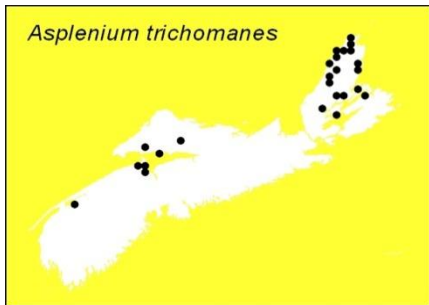
Photo by Carl Munden

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.



Photo by Roger Lloyd



***Asplenium trichomanes-ramosum* L.**
Green Spleenwort; doradille verte



Photo by Sean Blaney

Rare and local in Cape Breton. Locally abundant at Big Intervale, Margaree. Few mainland NS locations: scattered in the Cobequids and in Annapolis and Kings counties.

Elsewhere from NS to AK, variously south to CA, TX and FL; Eurasia, Africa and Australia.

STATUS: YELLOW-listed.



Photo by Roger Lloyd

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.

