

Polypodiaceae

Polypody Family

With 40 genera worldwide, only a single genus reaches NS, with two of 100 species, growing on rock.

***Polypodium* L.**

Polypody

Arising from glaucous, scaly rhizomes directly on rock, these ferns bear leathery fronds, of fewer than 25 pairs of pinnae. Sori are separate, limited to outer portions of the pinnae and are covered with pubescent sporangiasters (modified sporangia).

Key to species

- A. Blades lanceolate; tips of pinnae acute; sporangiasters present, strongly pubescent; scales on the rhizome golden. *Polypodium appalachianum*
- aa. Blades ovate; tips of pinnae rounded to obtuse; sporangiasters less common, pubescent or not; at least some of the scales dark-brown. *P. virginianum*

***Polypodium appalachianum* Haufler & Windham**

Appalachian Polypody; polypode des Appalaches



Photo by David Mazerolle

Formerly included with the next species, it is now recognized as separate species. It is a diploid, while *P. virginianum* is tetraploid. The acute tips are demonstrated in this photo. It can be difficult to separate although the spore size should help. This species has spores of $< 52\mu$, their surfaces verrucose. Sporangia number more than 40 per sorus.

Elsewhere its habitat is restricted to cliffs and rocky slopes.



Photo by Roger Lloyd

As NS material has yet to be examined, the distribution of this species in the province remains unclear.

NF to ON, south to AL and GA.

***Polypodium virginianum* L.**
Rock Polypody; polypode de Virginie



Photo by Ross Hall

Colonial from rhizomes, ferns are covered in both light and dark scales. Sporangia count fewer than 40 per sorus. Spores measure more than 52μ . They are tuberculate, with projections exceeding 3μ in height.

Rock outcrops in wooded habitats.

This species is very common throughout. Our collections need to be examined as some more than likely belong to the previous species.

NF to NT; AK, south to SK, SD and AL.



Photo by Sean Blaney