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Ophioglossum pusillum Raf.

Northern Adder's-tongue Fern

- State Rank: S1
- Global Rank: G5
- State Status: Special Concern

Habitat: Acid swales, wet thickets, shores, damp, sterile pastures [Non-tidal rivershore (non-forested, seasonally wet). Open wetland, not coastal nor rivershore (non-forested wetland)]

Range: New Brunswick south to North Carolina, west to Nebraska and California, north to North Dakota and British Columbia.

Aids to Identification: Northern adder's-tongue is a fern with a non-fern-like appearance. It is an inconspicuous plant with a single, simple sterile blade. The blade is oval-elliptical to spatulate in shape (up to 10 cm long and up to 3.2 cm wide). Sporangia are borne on a compact, linear sporophore (stalk that bears spores).

Ecological characteristics: Found mostly in wet swales and bogs. Very inconspicuous.

Phenology: Leaves appear mid-spring.


Family: Ophioglossaceae

Synonyms: *Ophioglossum vulgatum* L. var. *pseudopodium* (Blake) Farw.


Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 13 towns in the following counties: Aroostook, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Lincoln, Oxford, Piscataquis, Waldo, York.

Reason(s) for rarity: Unclear; may be under collected due to inconspicuous nature.

Conservation considerations:



Credits





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