

TRICHOMANES BOSCHIANUM Sturm
Appalachian Filmy Fern

FAMILY: Hymenophyllaceae

HABIT: Perennial from a creeping rhizome, fronds evergreen, 0.5-2 dm.; sporulating July-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: One of the most distinctive and easily identified ferns in Ohio. Possibly confused with mats of various bryophytes, but distinguished by its evident vascular tissue.

TOTAL RANGE: PA to OH and s. IL, s. to NC, n. FL, n. GA, and n. AL.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Hocking County.

HABITAT: In deep shade on moist, non-calcareous rocks; often pendant from the roofs of recess caves.

HAZARDS: Drying of the habitat; removal of forest canopy shading rock exposures; over-collecting by botanists.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect fronds only; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: This species is limited to a very restricted part of Ohio. It is not very likely that it will be found over a larger extent of the state. All populations are very small in size and number of plants. The severe winter of 1977-1978 appeared to have killed back these populations to some degree, but through time they probably will recover. All populations should be protected rigorously.

The gametophyte of this or another species of *Trichomanes* has been reported from sites that lack the sporophyte. This gametophyte has recently been found in Ohio and should be sought in suitable habitats.

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