

## ASPLENIACEAE (SPLEENWORT FAMILY)

**Plant:** fern, mostly terrestrial

**Root:**

**Stem and Leaves:** stem mostly erect, lattice-like scales (clathrate); leaves or blades diverse, 1-4 pinnate, usually with a fine glandular pubescence; mostly monomorphic (one leaf type) to somewhat dimorphic (fertile and sterile leaves)

**Fruit (Sori):** linear to somewhat lunate sori on veins, indusium covering sorus in most cases, sporangia stalked (1-row of cells) and annulus vertical, monoletic (single attachment scar) spores

**Other:** Division Pteridophyta (ferns)

**Genera:** one large and diverse (not well-defined) genus; *Asplenium*

\* Fern terminology is discussed in **PLANT TERMS**, a separate tab on the HOME page.

## ASPLENIACEAE (SPLEENWORT FAMILY)

**Ebony Spleenwort; *Asplenium platyneuron* (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb.**

**Walking Fern; *Asplenium rhizophyllum* L.**

# Ebony Spleenwort

*Asplenium platyneuron* (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb.

Aspleniaceae (Spleenwort Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: erect fern; stems or petioles mostly not branching, shiny reddish-brown, scales dark, mostly glabrous; blades 1-pinnate, mostly not divided, many pairs; pinna or leaflets with auricles (ear-like basal lobe) that lap over the rachis (stem); sori often near medial portion of leaf; terrestrial (woods or on rocks)

[V Max Brown, 2008]



# Walking Fern

*Asplenium rhizophyllum* L.

Aspleniaceae (Spleenwort Family)

Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area, Christian County,  
Missouri

Notes: stipe (stems) short, mostly glabrous, base may be scaly; blade simple, entire, slightly to moderately cordate at base, lanceolate with long attenuated to filiform tip, tip sometimes forked, small plantlets may form at tip and take root (walking); sori elongated and somewhat irregularly placed; terrestrial (usually on rocks and ledges close to moisture, usually associated with mosses)

[V Max Brown, 2011]

