

PTERIDACEAE – MAIDENHAIR FERN FAMILY

Plant: fern, perennial, terrestrial

Root:

Stem and Leaves: stem with scales and/or hairs; leaves monomorphic (sterile and fertile parts on same leaf) or dimorphic (2 types), 1-6 pinnate, hairs or scales usually present,

Fruit (Sori): sori on interior of pinna and borne on veins, true indusium absent but curling of leaf margin often present for protection, sporangia stalk of 2-3 cell rows, spores trilete (3-branched attachment), not green

Other: diverse; Division Pteridophyta, Fern Group

Genera: 40+ genera; *Adiantum* (maidenhair fern)

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

PTERIDACEAE – MAIDENHAIR FERN FAMILY

Northern Maidenhair Fern; *Adiantum pedatum* L.

Slender [Baby] Lip Fern; *Cheilanthes feei* T. Moore

Hairy Lip Fern; *Cheilanthes lanosa* (Michx.) D.C. Eaton

Purple Cliffbrake [Fern]; *Pellaea atropurpurea* (L.) Link

Northern Maidenhair Fern

Adiantum pedatum L.

Pteridaceae (Maidenhair Fern Family)

Pokagon State Park, Steuben County, Indiana

Notes: stipe erect, blades horizontal from 2 branches, horseshoe shaped; subleaflets short stalked, alternate, lower edge entire, incised upper edge, various shaped from fan to oblong; rachis slender, black to brown; 1-5 sori, upper edge, often covered by reflexed (rolled) leaflet margin; rich soils

[V Max Brown, 2006]



Slender [Baby] Lip Fern

Cheilanthes feei T. Moore

Pteridaceae (Maidenhair Fern Family)

Alley Springs, Ozark National Scenic

Riverways, Shannon County, Missouri

Notes: stipe mostly erect, blades mostly horizontal from rachis, 2-3 pinnate, subleaflets or pinnae entire, mostly sessile, evergreen, hairy above but densely white woolly below; rachis slender, brown, wiry, hairy early but shiny and less hairy later; sori protected by reflexed leaf edge; on limestone or dolostone cliffs (or boulders)

[V Max Brown, 2010]



Hairy Lip Fern

Cheilanthes lanosa (Michx.)

D.C. Eaton

Pteridaceae (Maidenhair Fern Family)

Sam A. Baker State Park, Wayne County,
Missouri

Notes: stipe mostly erect, blades mostly horizontal from rachis, twice pinnate then pinnatifid, pinnae mostly sessile, evergreen, somewhat hairy above but densely white to brown woolly below; rachis slender, brown, wiry, densely hairy with rust-colored hairs; small sori protected by reflexed leaf edge; on rock ledges, bluffs or glades

[V Max Brown, 2011]



Purple Cliffbrake [Fern]

Pellaea atropurpurea (L.) Link

Pteridaceae (Maidenhair Fern Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: stipe erect, blades mostly horizontal from rachis, pinnate, subleaflets or pinnae entire or often lobed near base, mostly sessile, alternate, evergreen; rachis slender, purple to purple-brown, usually hairy; sori covered by reflexed or curled leaf edge; found on limestone or dolostone cliffs (or boulders)

[V Max Brown, 2008]

