

common adder's-tongue

Ophioglossum vulgatum

FEATURES

The common adder's-tongue fern is a small plant that does not have a typical fern appearance. Its one, simple leaf is attached halfway up the single, smooth stalk. The shiny, deep green leaf is about four inches long and one-half inch wide. The fertile spike is at the tip of the stalk. The spike may resemble a snake's tongue, which is how the common name for this plant came into use.

BEHAVIORS

The common adder's-tongue fern may be found in scattered locations throughout Illinois. It grows in moist woods and on rock ledges. Spores are produced from April through June.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Pteridophyta
Class: Filicopsida
Order: Ophioglossales
Family: Ophioglossaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE





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plant

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands;
upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none