



Maine Department of Conservation
Natural Areas Program

Dryopteris fragrans (L.) Schott

Fragrant Cliff Wood-fern

- Habitat:** Dry cliffs and rocky banks (often calcareous). [Rocky summits and outcrops (non-forested, upland); Alpine or subalpine (non-forested, upland)]
- Range:** Circumboreal, south to northern New England and west to Minnesota.
- Phenology:** Perennial, semi-evergreen; the old fronds remaining attached to the plant long after they are withered and brown.
- Family:** Polypodiaceae

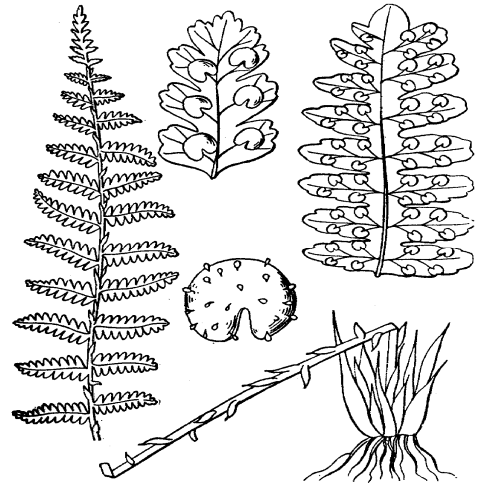


Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

Aids to Identification: A small, aromatic, evergreen fern usually surrounded by dead fronds at its base. The fronds are 6-25 cm long and 4-5 cm across; the sori on the undersides of the pinnae are brown. The separation between the leaflets on the leaves gives the plant a delicate appearance.

Ecological characteristics: This fern is limited to cool, dry, sometimes shaded cliffs or banks, the rocks sometimes are calcareous or basic, but other times acidic.

Synonyms: Known as *Polypodium fragrans* L. in old treatments

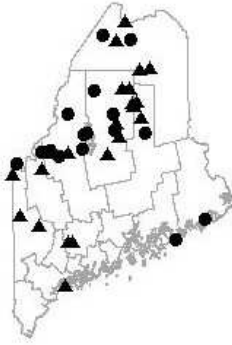
Rarity of *Dryopteris fragrans*

State Rank:	S3	Rare in Maine
New England Rank:	None	
Global Rank:	G5	Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally.

Status of *Dryopteris fragrans*

Federal Status:	None	No Federal Status.
State Status:	Special Concern	Rare in Maine, based on available information, but not sufficiently rare to be considered Threatened or Endangered.

Known Distribution in Maine:



- ▲ Historical (before 1983)
- Recent (1983 - present)

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 36 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Washington.

Dates of documented observations are: 1885, 1895, 1906, 1916, 1932 (2), 1937, 1943 (3), 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1958, 1959, 1965, 1976, 1981 (2), 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989 (2), 1991, 1992 (2), 1993 (2), 1995, 2000 (2), 2001 (3), 2003

Reason(s) for rarity:

At southern limit of range, habitat naturally scarce.

Conservation considerations:

Known populations are in remote locations, not particularly vulnerable to human activities.

The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 07 MAY 2004. We are grateful to our Botanical Advisory Group for additional information on particular species, and in particular, to Arthur Haines for his assistance with identifying characteristics and taxonomic questions. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998); where older works refer to a plant by another name, it is given under "Synonyms". The Natural Areas Program, within the Department of Conservation, maintains the most comprehensive source of information on Maine's rare or endangered plants and rare or exemplary natural communities, and is a member of the Association for Biodiversity Information.

If you know of locations for this plant or would like more information on this species, please contact the Natural Areas Program
State House Station 93, Augusta, Maine 04333; telephone (207) 287-8044.

