

filmy fern *Vandenboschia boschiana*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Pteridophyta

Class: Filicopsida

Order: Polypodiales

Family: Hymenophyllaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The filmy fern is also known as the bristle fern. It is an extremely delicate plant with leaves only one cell thick. The leaves grow very close together and often form a mat. Each leaf is about six inches long and one and one-half inches wide. The light-green leaves are evergreen and lance-shaped. Each leaf is divided into about six pairs of lacy leaflets, and the leaflet is divided further into two or more subleaflets. The short, green stipe is winged. The green rachis is also winged.

BEHAVIORS

The filmy fern may be found in Johnson and Pope counties in Illinois. It grows under moist, overhanging sandstone cliffs. Spores are produced from June through September.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

none

Woodland Habitats

coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2017. Biodiversity of Illinois.