

## MODEST SPLEENWORT

*Asplenium verecundum* Chapm. ex Underw.

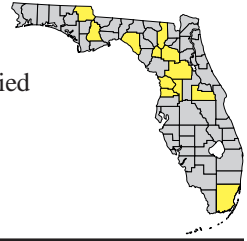
**Synonym:** *A. myriophyllum* (Swartz.) C. Presl. misapplied

**Family:** Aspleniaceae (spleenwort)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S1

**Legal Status:** US—none FL—Endangered

**Wetland Status:** US—UPL FL—UPL



*Asplenium x curtissii*

Gil Nelson



*Asplenium x plenum*



*Asplenium verecundum*

**Field Description (photo, lower right and drawing, left and top):** Fern with tufted, lacy, evergreen **fronds**, usually drooping or arching, to 16 inches long, with a short, brownish-black **leaf stalk**. **Leaflets** alternate, in 8 - 22 well spaced pairs, leaflets divided into 2 - 5 segments, each with one **sorus** covered by an **indusium**.

**Similar and Related Rare Species:** Eared spleenwort (*Asplenium auritum*, drawing, lower right), state-endangered, has sharply toothed leaflets with an “ear” at the base of most leaflets and up to 10 pairs of sori per leaflet. Modest spleenwort hybridizes with a common species, cutleaf spleenwort (*Asplenium abscissum*), to produce a rare hybrid, Curtiss’ spleenwort (photo, above left, *Asplenium x curtissii*). Cutleaf spleenwort backcrosses with Curtiss’ spleenwort to produce another rare hybrid, ruffled spleenwort (see photo, above right, *Asplenium x plenum*). Also see toothed spleenwort (*A. dentatum*) and single-sorus spleenwort (*A. monanthes*) in this guide.

## Modest spleenwort

## *Asplenium verecundum*

**Habitat:** Modest spleenwort: rockland hammocks, limestone outcrops, grottoes, and sinkholes. Eared spleenwort: trunks of trees in wet hammocks and cypress strand swamps.

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** Modest spleenwort: endemic to FL. Eared spleenwort: FL, Mexico, West Indies, Central and South America.

**Conservation Status:** Most populations are on private lands where clearing, logging, and draining have destroyed the hammocks, swamps, and outcrops.

**Protection & Management:** Preserve swamp and hammock forests; protect and restore natural hydrology. Eradicate exotic pest plants. Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers.

**References:** Coile 2000, FNA 1993, IRC 1999, Lellinger and Evans 1985, Nauman 1986, Nelson 2000, Ward 1979, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000b.

