

# *Phymatosorus scolopendria*

## SERPENT FERN

### *Polypodiaceae*

Common Synonyms: *none*

**FLEPPC Category:** 1

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

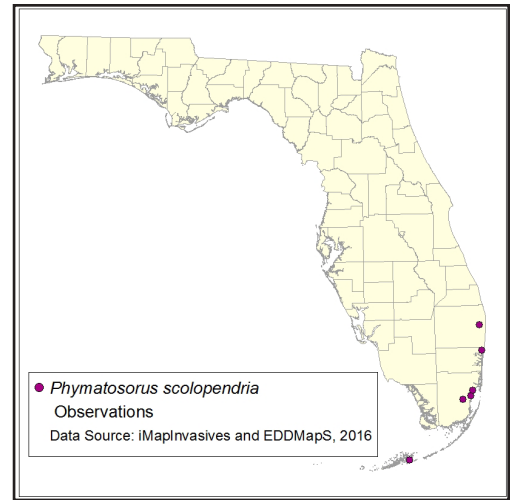
**IFAS Assessment**

North	OK
Central	CAUTION
South	CAUTION

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** not available

**Growth Habit:** Perennial fern

**Origin:** Asia



*Phymatosorus scolopendria* near Tongan beach, by Tau'olunga [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Polypodium\\_scolopendria.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Polypodium_scolopendria.jpg) Used under Creative Commons 3.0 license

**Description:** Perennial fern with brown-black, scaly, creeping rhizomes, 5 mm diameter. Usually terrestrial but can be epiphytic. Leaf blades broad, flat, entire, oblong-ovate to subdeltoid, shiny, dark green, 10-40 cm long and 35 cm wide, usually pinnately divided into one terminal and 1-8 pairs of lateral lobes, wings of the rachis about equal to the width of the lobes. Sori in 2 irregular rows on each side of the midrib, circular or elongate, 3 mm wide, in shallow depressions on the bottom leaf surface, resulting in raised areas on the upper leaf surface.

**Habitat:** hammocks and mangroves

**Comments:** Leaves scented. Plant widespread in tropics of the world.

**Florida Introduction Date:** Earliest Florida specimen vouchered in 2002.

**Control Methods:**

No specific recommendations available.

**Useful Resources:**

- People and Plants of Micronesia. *Phymatosorus scolopendria*. University of Hawaii at Manoa. [http://manoa.hawaii.edu/botany/plants\\_of\\_micronesia/index.php/full-database/458-phymatosorus-scolopendria](http://manoa.hawaii.edu/botany/plants_of_micronesia/index.php/full-database/458-phymatosorus-scolopendria). Accessed on June 26, 2014.
- Lindsay, S. & Middleton, D.J. (2012 onwards). Ferns of Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. [http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/thaiferns/factsheets/index.php?q=Phymatosorus\\_scolopendria.xml](http://rbg-web2.rbge.org.uk/thaiferns/factsheets/index.php?q=Phymatosorus_scolopendria.xml). Accessed on June 26, 2014.
- Wunderlin, R. P., and B. F. Hansen. 2008. Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants (<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/>). [S. M. Landry and K. N. Campbell (application development), Florida Center for Community Design and Research.] Institute for Systematic Botany, University of South Florida, Tampa.