

## NARROW STRAP FERN

*Campyloneurum angustifolium* (Sw.) Fée

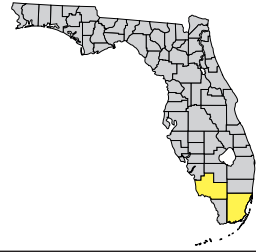
**Synonym:** *Polypodium angustifolium* Sw.

**Family:** Polypodiaceae (polypody)

**FNAI Ranks:** G4G5/S1

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

**Wetland Status:** US—UPL FL—UPL



*Campyloneurum angustifolium* Gil Nelson



*Campyloneurum costatum* Gil Nelson

**Field Description (photo, left):** Fern with a knotty, creeping stem embedded in the bark of tree bases, trunks, and branches. **Leaves** 1 - 2 feet long and about 0.5 inch wide, arching or drooping, tapering at both ends; margins entire and inrolled; midvein curving and conspicuous. **Sori** round, scattered across undersurface of leaves.

**Similar Species:** Long strap fern (*Campyloneurum phyllitidis*) also grows on trunks and branches; it is usually erect and has leathery, yellow-green leaves up to 5 feet long, with conspicuous parallel veins and sori in rows. Shoestring fern (*Vittaria lineata*), also epiphytic, has narrower leaves with sori embedded in grooves along the leaf margins.

**Related Rare Species (photo, right, and drawing):** Tailed strap fern (*Campyloneurum costatum*), state-endangered, has arching or drooping leaves to 20 inches long and 2.4 inches wide; leaf tip is abruptly pinched to a point (“tail”); leaf margins wavy; veins are inconspicuous; sori are scattered on either side of midvein.

## Narrow strap fern

## *Campyloneurum angustifolium*

**Habitat:** Both narrow and tailed strap fern grow on tree trunks and branches in tropical hardwood hammocks and cypress swamps.

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** FL, West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America.

**Conservation Status:** Both narrow and tailed strap ferns are found in low numbers in two conservation areas. Both species have been decimated by collectors and by habitat destruction.

**Protection & Management:** Protect remaining fragments of rockland. Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers.

**References:** FNA 2000, IRC 1999, Nelson 2000, Ward 1979, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000b.

