

## WEDGELET FERN

*Odontosoria clavata* (L.) J. Sm.

**Synonyms:** *Sphenomeris clavata* (L.) Maxon

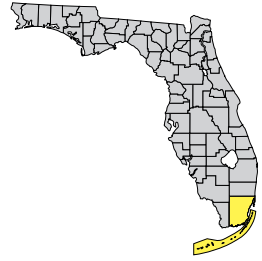
*Adiantum clavatum* L.

**Family:** Dennstaedtiaceae (cuplet fern)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3/S2

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

**Wetland Status:** US—UPL FL—UPL



Gil Nelson

**Field Description:** Fern with erect fronds closely spaced on a creeping stem. Fronds 4 - 20 inches long, pale yellow-green, smooth, delicate and papery without much leafy tissue, repeatedly divided into narrow segments that expand at the tip into a wedge-shaped, cup-like sorus. Ragged, toothed flaps of tissue (**indusia**) surround each sorus.

**Similar Species:** Whisk fern (*Psilotum nudum*), which occurs in wet to mesic hammocks throughout peninsular FL, is similar in general appearance, but lacks the wedge-shaped sori at the leaf tips.

**Related Rare Species:** See cuplet fern (*Dennstaedtia bipinnata*), state-endangered, in this guide.

## Wedgelet Fern

*Odontosoria clavata*

**Habitat:** Pine rocklands, sinkholes, limestone ledges, rocky glades.

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** FL, West Indies, Mexico.

**Conservation Status:** Wedgelet fern was once found in many limesinks and rocklands in Dade County; now known in only 7 conservation areas.

**Protection & Management:** Purchase and protect remaining fragments of pine rocklands. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

**References:** Coile 2000, Correll and Correll, FNA 1993, IRC 1999, Nelson 2000, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000b.

