

## ABRUPT-TIP MAIDEN FERN

*Pelazoneuron augescens* (Link) A.R. Smith & S.E. Fawcett

**Synonyms:** *Christella augescens* (Link) Pic. Serm.; *Aspidium augescens* Link; *Thelypteris augescens* (Link) Munz & Johnston

**Family:** Thelypteridaceae (marsh fern)

**FNAI Ranks:** G3G5/S3

**Legal Status:** US-none; FL-none



Apical portion of blade similar to the lateral pinnae; pinnae less than 2 cm wide. Growing in a mesic hammock at Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

**Field Description:** Rhizomes long- to short-creeping; **scales** at base of petioles lanceolate, usually hairy; upper surface of the **costae** and **costules** glabrous above (rarely minutely hairy, the **hairs** never greater than 0.2 mm long), eglandular; apical portion of blade similar to the lateral pinnae; **pinnae** less than 2 cm wide.

**Similar Species:** Southern shield fern (*Pelazoneuron kunthii*) and ovate marsh fern (*P. ovatum* var. *ovatum*) are similar and may be separated as follows: **southern shield fern** - rhizomes long- to short-creeping; scales at base of petioles lanceolate, usually hairy; upper surface of the costae and costules with at least a few stout hairs greater than 0.3 mm long; upper leaf surface pubescent to nearly glabrous, also glandular with stipitate glands. **Ovate marsh fern** - rhizomes long- to short-creeping; scales at base of petioles lanceolate, usually hairy; upper surface of the costae and costules glabrous above (rarely minutely hairy, the hairs never greater than 0.2 mm long), eglandular; apical portion of blade attenuated, different from the lateral pinnae; pinnae 0.4 - 4.8 cm wide; basal segments of pinnae near base of blade slightly elongate and parallel to rachis; vein undersurfaces lacking scales or nearly so; scales usually absent on the lower surface of the costae; leaf blade surface glabrous on the upper surface; scales of petiole bases and rhizomes brown

**Related Rare Species:** None

**Habitat:** Hammocks; sometimes on exposed or thinly covered limestone.

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

**Range-wide Distribution:** S. FL; West Indies (Bahamas, Cuba); s. Mexico (Quintana R6o); Central America (Guatemala).

**Conservation Status:** Uncommon to rare in south FL, where it is often associated with rockland hammocks, mesic hammocks, and pine rocklands, many of which have been destroyed or degraded.

**Protection and Management:** Protect subtropical hammocks (mesic and rockland) from hog rooting and eliminate invasive plant species.

**References:** Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+, Weakley, A. S. and the Southeastern Flora Team 2023, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011



Upper surface of the costae glabrous above; pinnae less than 2 cm wide. Growing in a mesic hammock at Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.



Apical portion of blade similar to the lateral pinnae; pinnae less than 2 cm wide. Growing in a mesic hammock at Okaloacoochee Slough Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.



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