

STAR-SCALE FERN

Pleopeltis astrolepis (Liebm.) Fourn.

Synonyms: none

Family: Polypodiaceae (polypody)

FNAI Ranks: G5/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



No Image
Available

Field Description: Epiphytic fern with brown hairs and appressed black scales along a long branched stem. Petiole very short or not present at all. Sori borne on the terminal 2/3 of the blade in single rows on either side of the midrib.

Similar Species: *P. astrolepis* is distinguished from other Shielded-sorus Polypody by having elliptical or oblong sori, arranged in 1 row on either side of the midvein.

Related Rare Species: None.

Habitat: Hammocks and swamps; epiphytic on *Annona glabra*.

Best Survey Season: Visible all year

Range-wide Distribution: Known from a single locality in Broward Co., widespread in tropical America including Mexico, West Indies, Central America,

star-scale fern***Pleopeltis astrolepis***

South America. A single locality in a Broward Co. site had been destroyed and the species was considered extirpated until 2016 when another plant was found.

Conservation Status: Recently believed extirpated, but re-located in 2016.

Protection and Management: Currently believed to occur in just one site in Broward County, on the Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area. Previous location is believed to be extirpated.

References: Nelson, G. 2000. The Ferns of Florida, a reference and field guide. Pineapple Press, Inc. Sarasota, FL.