

## WEDGELET FERN

*Sphenomeris clavata* (L.) Maxon

**Synonyms:** *Adiantum clavatum* L.; *Odontosoria clavata* L.

**Family:** Lindsaeaceae (necklace fern)

**FNAI Ranks:** G4/S2

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



**Field Description:** Fern with erect **fronds** closely spaced on a creeping stem. **Fronds** 10 - 50 cm long, pale yellow-green, smooth, delicate and papery without much leafy tissue, repeatedly divided into narrow segments that expand at the tip into club- or wedge-shaped, cup-like **sori**. 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 hay scented fern (*Mucura bipinnata*), state-endangered, in this guide.

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

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

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

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

**Protection and 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.

