

Thelypteridaceae (Marsh Fern Family) Key

Key to species in Newfoundland and Labrador

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- 1a. Fronds lanceolate-oblong to triangular, widest at or near the base. **2**
- 1b. Fronds elliptic, widest near the middle and tapering to a narrow base. **3**
 - 2a. Frond monomorphic, pinnate-pinnatifid, triangular; the basal pair of pinnae elliptic-lanceolate, bent forward and slightly downward, free from the upper pinnae-like divisions, which are connected along the winged rachis, divisions narrowly elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate at the apex; sori situated near the margins of each pinnule. ***Phegopteris connectilis*** (northern beech fern)
 - 2b. Fronds somewhat dimorphic, pinnate-pinnatifid, lanceolate-oblong; most pinnae short-stalked and narrowly oblong-lanceolate, only the tip of the frond pinnatifid; fertile fronds shorter, with pinnule margins recurved loosely over the sori. ***Thelypteris palustris* var. *pubescens*** (marsh fern)
- 3a. Fronds to 5.5 dm long, arising from a long slender creeping rhizome; pinnule margins flat, hairy; rachis, costae, and veins also somewhat hairy below, the hairs 0.3–1 mm long; ferns of shady forested habitats. ***Amauropelta noveboracensis*** (New York fern)
- 3b. Fronds to 1 m long, arising from a short thick ascending rhizome; pinnule margins slightly revolute; pinnule margins, rachis, costae, and veins generally lacking hairs; ferns of alpine areas. ***Oreopteris quelpaertensis*** (mountain fern)

Thelypteridaceae Comparison Charts

Thelypteridaceae Chart 1 (of 2): Species with fronds widest at or near the base		
Species:	<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>
	northern beech fern	marsh fern
Fronds	monomorphic, pinnate-pinnatifid, 15–35 cm long; blades triangular , 8–20+ cm long; rachis winged above the basal pinnae	monomorphic to slightly dimorphic , pinnate-pinnatifid, 20–60 cm long; fertile fronds taller ; blade lanceolate-oblong , 10–40 cm long; rachis not winged
Pinnae	6–12 cm long × 1–3.3 cm wide, elliptic-lanceolate, basal pair of pinnae noticeably curved forward and slightly downward	2–10 cm long × 0.5–2 cm wide, linear-lanceolate; pinnae organized in one plane
Pubescence	blade somewhat hairy on both surfaces and along rachis, costae, and veins	blade glabrous on both surfaces , hairy on costae and veins
Sori	round, indusia absent ; sori situated near the margin of each pinnule	round, indusia horseshoe-shaped ; sori situated midway to margin of each pinnule
Habitat	rocky forest habitats, streambanks, rocky slopes, around boulders; common	wet habitats, marshes, swamps, wet thickets, ditches
Recent Synonyms	<i>Dryopteris phegopteris</i> ; <i>Thelypteris phegopteris</i>	<i>Dryopteris thelypteris</i> ; <i>Lastrea thelypteris</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>

Thelypteridaceae Chart 2 (of 2): Species with fronds widest at/near the middle		
Species:	<i>Amauropelta noveboracensis</i>	<i>Oreopteris quelpaertensis</i>
	New York fern	mountain fern
Rhizomes	long-creeping, 1.5–2.5 mm thick	short-creeping to suberect, 5–10 mm thick
Fronds	monomorphic, elliptic, 20–60 cm long	monomorphic, elliptic, 25–100 cm long
Pinnules	margins flat, hairy , with short hairs, to 1 mm long, pointing towards pinnule apices	margins slightly involute , lacking marginal hairs
Pubescence	lower surface finely hairy on lamina, pinnule margins, costae, and veins	hairs lacking or sparse ; lower surface with linear scales only along costae
Sori	round, indusia reniform, glandular-ciliate ; sori situated near the margin of each pinnule	round, indusia small, reniform to orbicular, glandular ; sori situated near the margin of each pinnule
Habitat	shaded forested habitats ; common	exposed alpine habitats ; rare
Recent Synonyms	<i>Parathelypteris noveboracensis</i> ; <i>Dryopteris noveboracensis</i>	<i>Dryopteris quelpaertensis</i> ; <i>Dryopteris oreopteris</i> , auct.

For a full list of synonyms, please refer to the checklist, which includes all verified synonyms for each species: