

## 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. .... ***Parathelypteris 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

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

**Thelypteridaceae Chart 2 (of 2): Species with fronds widest at/near the middle**

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