

OPHIOGLOSSACEAE (ADDER'S-TONGUE FAMILY)

Plant: fern, terrestrial

Root: no root hairs

Stem and Leaves: stems erect, simple, unbranched; leaf base with either an open or closed sheath, 1-2 leaves per stem divided into a fertile (sporophore) and sterile (trophophore) sections, both types may be simple to compound, portions of blade may be hairy

Fruit (Sori): spores trilete (3-scarred attachment)

Other: 2 subfamilies – Botrychioideae and Ophioglossoideae; Division Pteridophyta, Fern Group

Genera: 5+ genera

* Fern terminology is discussed in **PLANT TERMS**, a separate tab on the HOME page.

OPHIOGLOSSACEAE (ADDER'S-TONGUE FAMILY)

Cutleaf [Dissected] Grapefern; *Botrychium dissectum* Spreng.
Rattlesnake Fern; *Botrychium virginianum* (L.) Sw.

Cutleaf [Dissected] Grapefern

Botrychium dissectum Spreng.

Ophioglossaceae (Adder's-Tongue family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: erect fern; trophophore (sterile) blade deltate (triangular), 3-4 pinnate, pinnules often trowel-shaped with margins serrate, finely to coarsely cut, shiny green even in winter though sometimes becomes bronze-colored in winter; sporophore (fertile portion) 2-3 pinnate; highly variable species

[V Max Brown, 2008]



Rattlesnake Fern

Botrychium virginianum (L.) Sw.

Ophioglossaceae (Adder's-Tongue family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: erect fern (to 50 cm but usually smaller); trophophore (sterile) blade deltate (triangular), 3-4 pinnate, pinnules sharply toothed, green in spring and summer, dies out in fall and winter; sporophore (fertile portion) 2-3 pinnate, up to 20+ cm long, sporangia ovoid, stalked, at end of fertile spikes; woodlands, does not overwinter

[V Max Brown, 2014]

