common polypody
Polypodium virginianum

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Pteridophyta
Class: Filicopsida
Order: Polypodiales
Family: Polypodiaceae

FEATURES
The common polypody is a small fern that grows in mats. Each triangular-shaped leaf is about 12 inches long. Leaves may be erect or flat on the substrate. The leathery, dark green leaf is divided into from 10 to 20 pairs of leaflets. The smooth, entire leaflets are about in equal in size from the bottom of the leaf to about halfway along the rachis. Then they become gradually shorter toward the pointed tip.

BEHAVIORS
The common polypody may be found in the southern one-third and northern one-third of Illinois. It grows in shady areas on sandstone rock. Spores are produced from June through October.

ILLINOIS RANGE

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fronds
Aquatic Habitats
bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats
coniferous forests; upland deciduous forests

Prairie Habitats
none