# Bradley's Spleenwort
## *Asplenium bradleyi*

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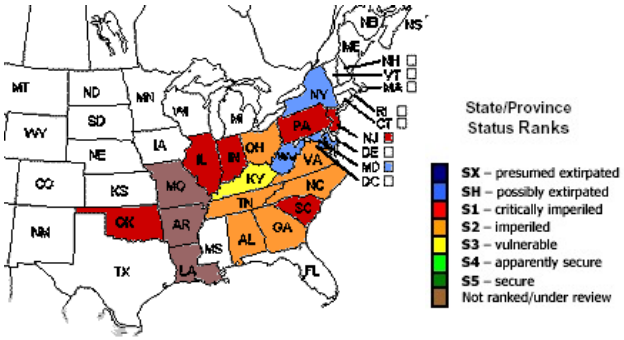
### Description
Bradley's spleenwort is a small fern growing on rocks. The leaves are generally lance-shaped, 1 to 4 (8) inch (2-17 cm) long, and divided into 5 to 15 pairs of leaflets, or pinnae. The pinnae are roughly triangular in shape and have toothed or lobed margins. Pinnae are largest at the base of the stem and gradually decrease in size as they approach the top of the stem. The lower half of the leaf stem is maroon-colored and the upper half is green. As in most ferns, the spores are produced on the underside of the leaves.

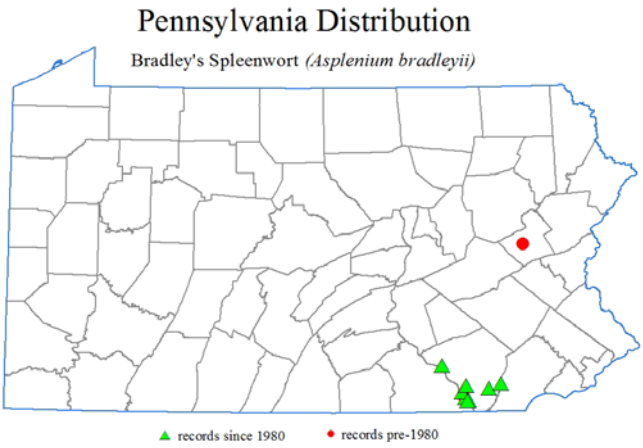
Photo source: PNHP

### Distribution & Habitat
Bradley's spleenwort has a range from New York south and west into Georgia and Okalahoma. In Pennsylvania, it is near the northeastern end of its range, and has been documented historically in a few southeastern counties. It grows on dry shaded cliffs and rock outcrops, particularly on sandstone and schist.

**North American State/Province Conservation Status**
Map by NatureServe 2014




### Current State Status
The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers Bradley's spleenwort to be a species of special concern, based on the few occurrences that have been recently confirmed and its specialized habitat. It has a PA legal rarity status of Endangered and has been assigned a suggested rarity status of Endangered by PABS. Fewer than 10 populations, all with few individuals, are currently known from the state.




### Conservation Considerations
Because of its small populations in the state, Bradley's spleenwort is vulnerable even without such threats as indiscriminate spraying of herbicide, quarrying, invasive species, and forest fragmentation. The viability of existing populations and the rock outcrop habitat may be enhanced by establishing a surrounding buffer of forest.

### NatureServe conservation status ranks
**G4** – Apparently secure globally; **S1** – Critically imperiled in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

### References

- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at http://www.natureserve.org/explorer
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.