

NARROW-LEAVED STRAP FERN

Campyloneurum angustifolium (Sw.) Fee

Synonyms: *Polypodium angustifolium* Sw.

Family: Polypodiaceae (polypody)

FNAI Ranks: G4G5/S1

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-UPL+ FL-UPL



Campyloneurum angustifolium Gil Nelson



Campyloneurum costatum Gil Nelson

Field Description: Fern with a knotty, creeping stem embedded in the bark of tree bases, trunks, and branches. **Leaves** 1 - 2 feet long and about 0.5 inch wide, arching or drooping, tapering at both ends; margins entire and inrolled; midvein curving and conspicuous. **Sori** round, scattered across undersurface of leaves.

Similar Species: Long strap fern (*Campyloneurum phyllitidis*) also grows on trunks and branches; it is usually erect and has leathery, yellow-green leaves up to 5 feet long, with conspicuous parallel veins and sori in rows. Shoestring fern (*Vittaria lineata*), also epiphytic, has narrower leaves with sori embedded in grooves along the leaf margins.

Related Rare Species: Tailed strap fern (*Campyloneurum costatum*), state-endangered, has arching or drooping leaves to 20 inches long and 2.4 inches wide; leaf tip is abruptly pinched to a point ("tail"); leaf margins wavy; veins are

narrow-leaved strap fern

Campyloneurum angustifolium

inconspicuous; sori are scattered on either side of midvein.

Habitat: On tree trunks and branches in tropical hardwood hammocks and cypress swamps; epiphytic.

Best Survey Season: All year.

Range-wide Distribution: FL, West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America.

Conservation Status: Both narrow and tailed strap ferns are found in low numbers in two conservation areas. Both species have been decimated by collectors and by habitat destruction.

Protection and Management: Protect remaining fragments of rockland. Enforce plant protection laws and prosecute plant poachers.

References: FNA 2000, IRC 1999, Nelson 2000, Ward 1979, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000b.