

PLUME POLYPODY

Pecluma plumula (Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.)

M.G. Price

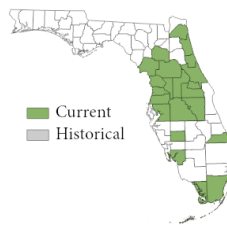
Synonyms: none

Family: Polypodiaceae (polypody)

FNAI Ranks: G5/S2

Legal Status: US-none FL-Endangered

Wetland Status: US-none+ FL-UPL



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Field Description: Epipetric (growing on limestone) to epiphytic fern primarily on live oak (*Quercus virginiana*). Pinnate fronds up to 58 cm long. Appear stiff. Narrow linear pinnae (1.5-2.5 mm wide). Rachis black with conspicuous scales that are bullate (bulging) and not hastate at the base.

Similar Species: Similar to resurrection ferns (*Pleopeltis polypodioides*), but with longer fronds and with undersides of pinnae not covered with scales. Differs from swamp plume polypody (*Pecluma ptilodon*) in having conspicuous rachis scales. Differs from widespread polypody (*P. dispersa*) in having slightly narrower leaf segments and entire rachis scales (vs. ciliate-lacerate).

Related Rare Species: Differs from swamp plume polypody (*Pecluma ptilodon*) by having conspicuous rachis scales.

plume polypody

Pecluma plumula

Habitat: Wet hammocks and swamps; epiphytic on live oaks, occasionally on rocks or terrestrial.

Best Survey Season: Spring-fall; all year in southern counties.

Range-wide Distribution: Peninsular and south Florida Keys. Also known from the West Indies, Mexico, Central America, and South America.

Conservation Status: 51 populations scattered throughout central Florida, from Gainesville south to Lakeland. Many of these are found within conservation lands.

Protection and Management: Hand pull exotic species posing threat to fern: Chinese brake fern (*Pteris vittata*), cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), and sword fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*). Avoid disturbance to substrate. Plume polypody is sensitive to fire and dependent on maintenance of natural hydrology. Maintain hydrology quality and quantity.

References: Chafin, L.G. 2000. Field guide to the rare plants of Florida. Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Tallahassee, Florida. Flora of North America Editorial Committee. 1993. Flora of North America north of Mexico, Vol. 2:pteridophytes and gymnosperms. Oxford University Press, New York. Nelson, G. 2000. The Ferns of Florida, a reference and field guide. Pineapple Press, Inc. Sarasota, FL. Wunderlin, R.P., and B.F. Hansen. 2000. Flora of Florida. Volume I. Pteridophytes and Gymnosperms. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.