

## TOOTHED LATTICE-VEIN FERN

*Thelypteris serrata* (Cav.) Alston

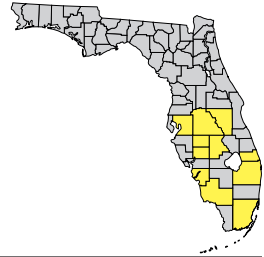
**Synonyms:** *Meniscium serratum* Cav.

**Family:** Thelypteridaceae (maiden or marsh fern)

**FNAI Ranks:** G5/S2

**Legal Status:** US—none FL—Endangered

**Wetland status:** US—none FL—FACW



Gil Nelson

**Field Description (photo and drawing, left: Fern with large, evergreen fronds** 2 - 6 feet long, with hairy, brown or tan leafstalks. **Leaflets** 4 - 10 inches long, 1.5 inches wide, with hairy veins and sharply hook-toothed margins. **Sori** in many, parallel rows between veins on underside of leaflets.

**Similar and Related Rare Species (see drawing, right):** Lattice-vein fern (*Thelypteris reticulata*), state-endangered, is also a large evergreen fern with fronds to 6 feet long; leaflets are paired, 8 - 12 inches long and 2.5 inches wide, with entire, wavy, or round-toothed margins. It occurs in wet hammocks and cypress swamps in Broward, Collier, Dade, and Lee counties.

Stately maiden fern (*Thelypteris grandis*), state-endangered, has fronds to 5 feet long divided into finely cut leaflets, similar to the common marsh fern (*Thelypteris kunthii*); it occurs only in swamps in Collier County. Grid-scale maiden fern (*Thelypteris patens*), state-endangered, also resembles the common maiden fern; it occurs in 2 rockland hammocks in Dade County. See also creeping star-hair fern (*Thelypteris reptans*) in this guide.

## Toothed lattice-vein fern

*Thelypteris serrata*

**Habitat:** Cypress swamps, sloughs, floodplains.

**Best Survey Season:** All year.

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

**Conservation Status:** Toothed lattice-vein fern occurs in several conservation areas and is also somewhat protected by wetland regulations.

**Protection & management:** Avoid logging, draining, or developing wetlands.

**References:** Coile 2000, FNA 1993, IRC 1999, Lellinger and Evans 1985, Nelson 2000, Wunderlin 1998, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000, Wunderlin and Hansen 2000a.

