

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Thelypteris interrupta - Willdenow fern Marsh Fern Family (Thelypteridaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1/G5?

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range:

FL, LA, as well as West Indies, Central and tropical South America

Recognition:

- Fronds once-compound (pinnate), 50 to 150 cm long (including petiole); blades 30 to 125 cm long
- Blades lacking hairs on undersurface
- Long, creeping, black rhizome
- Light brown scales on the underside of the midrib of the frond



Clump of *Thelypteris interrupta* at Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge in St. Mary Parish.

Light Requirement: Shade to part shade

Wetland Indicator Status:

FAC – similar likelihood of occurring in both wetlands and nonwetlands

Habitat:

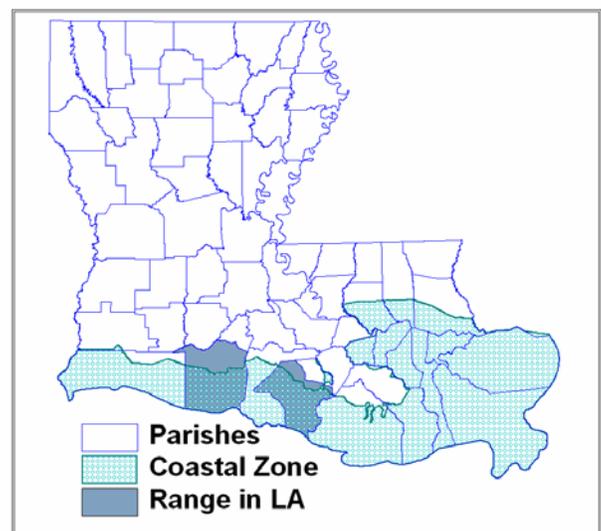
Louisiana occurrences are on hammocks (including spoil banks) in cypress-tupelo swamps

Threats:

- Subsidence of forested wetlands
- Hydrological alterations (drowning)

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Restoration of natural flooding and sediment supply to forested wetlands
- Field survey work to detect additional populations



LA River Basins: Atchafalaya, Vermilion-Teche, Mermentau

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Long-creeping black rhizome

References:

- Smith, A.R. 1993. Thelypteridaceae. *In* Flora of North America Editorial Committee (eds). Flora of North America. Vol. 2. 206-222. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford.
- Thieret, J. W. 1980. Louisiana ferns and fern allies. Lafayette Natural History Museum. Lafayette, LA. 123 pp.
- USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.