

var. *elatum* (Engelm.) Morton is dominant. It is distinguished from other varieties by its pointed teeth which remain attached to the sheath throughout the winter. The plant occurs in the Pine Hills area and elsewhere in southern Illinois. It is common in sandy areas, such as along river banks and railroad embankments.

SUMMARY

The twenty-nine ferns and fern allies from the Pine Hills Field Station Area and environs reported here constitute 62 per cent of the ferns and fern allies known to occur naturally in the southernmost 17 counties of Illinois.

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Shorter Notes

LITOBROCHIA IN FLORIDA.—I read with interest the article, "More Florida Rarities," by Thomas Darling, Jr. (THIS JOURNAL 52: 137-148. 1962). Especially notable to me was the author's mention of finding *Litobrochia* (*Pteris*) *tripartita* in a hammock near the Plant Introduction Station, south of Miami. Mr. Darling's comment that this was one of the "ferns which formerly I had considered nearly extinct" is noteworthy, for this Giant Bracken is poorly known in South Florida.

I would like to point out, though, that *Litobrochia tripartita* is not as rare in our area as is often believed. For instance, the most impressive colony of it that I know is in the Fairchild Tropical Garden, near Miami, where several hundred handsome plants, exposed to full sun, form an almost solid mass along a coral wall at the Bailey Palm Glade. Since this is one of our showiest ferns, the colony should certainly be protected.

The Giant Bracken was formerly frequent along the roadsides, growing on the margins of cypress swamps in deep, rich, constantly moist soil and in semishade west from Fort Lauderdale. This area, now destroyed by the encroachments of housing subdivisions, supported dozens of plants that often towered well over my head—and I am just a shade under six feet tall!

Within the past few months, I have also found scattered plants of *Litobrochia* in marginal growth of several cypress sloughs along the Tamiami Trail, about fifty miles west of Miami, and also on the edges of wet thickets beside the Sunshine State Parkway, between Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach. In these localities, the plants are always, insofar as my experience extends, few and far between.

This stately fern has also made its way into a few of our southern Florida gardens. I have two friends in the Miami area who have brought specimens of *Litobrochia tripartita* to me for identification within the past year, the plants having "just come up" amidst shrubbery in their private gardens.

The Giant Bracken is among our finest Florida ferns, and it is encouraging to find that it is spreading within our region, in spite of the tremendous destruction of our forests and fields through the processes of "civilization."—ALEX D. HAWKES, *Coconut Grove 33, Florida*.

Notes and News

1963 FERN FORAY TO THE WOODSTOCK-DORSET AREA OF VERMONT.—A group of Fern Society members gathered at the Wallingford Inn, Wallingford, Vermont, on Thursday evening, August 22, where Dr. R. L. Hauke presided over the indoctrination meeting prior to the foray. Dr. Benjamin R. Allison, Mr. Henry Potter and Dr. Ralph C. Benedict discussed the places we were to visit and some of the ferns we could be expected to see. There was a slight disagreement as to the hour of departure in the morning, but a compromise of 9 A.M. was agreed upon.

Due to slow service in the dining room, we were delayed until 9:30 when a convoy of ten loaded cars started off. After a stop between Tyson and Reading, where a number of ferns were seen, the convoy drove to the remote but beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Newton, Reading, Vermont. Everyone enjoyed a tour of Mrs. Newton's extensive garden which contained the following ferns: maidenhair, maidenhair spleenwort, a cut-leaf



Hawkes, Alex D . 1964. "Litobrochia in Florida." *American fern journal* 54, 38–39. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1547095>.

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