

THUIDIUM ALLENII Aust.
Allen's Fern Moss

FAMILY: Thuidiaceae

CHARACTERS: Plants large, light-green to yellow, straggly in appearance; stems creeping, irregularly 2-pinnate, with paraphyllia abundant on stems. Stem leaves loosely erect, almost 1 mm long, ovate with 1-3 inconspicuous papillae on back; branch leaves concave, 0.5-0.6 mm long, strongly incurved with 1-3 low papillae on cells.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *T. allenii* is similar to *T. delicatulum* but has short-pointed stem leaves with margins not or scarcely revolute. *T. allenii* has branch cells with 1-3 low papillae whereas those of *T. delicatulum* are unipapillose. The stem leaves of *T. delicatulum* are biplicate while those of *T. allenii* are rarely plicate.

TOTAL RANGE: Atlantic and Gulf Coast Plains extending northward in the Mississippi Embayment; CT, OH, IN, TN, AR, FL, TX.

STATE RANGE: Pre-1980 record from Champaign.

STATE STATUS: 1996 to present: Presumed Extirpated

HABITAT: Soil, logs, roots and tree bases in swampy places, often at the base of trees just above waterline.

HAZARDS: Drainage of habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Known, probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect only a small sample of plants.

COMMENTS: *T. allenii* does not have the fern-like appearance of either *T. delicatulum* or *T. recognitum*. *T. allenii* generally occurs in moister places than either *T. delicatulum* or *T. recognitum*. *T. allenii* may be overlooked due its resemblance to more common species. Efforts were made to recollect this plant at its original locality.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Crum, H.A. and L.E. Anderson. 1981. Mosses of Eastern North America. Volumes 1 & 2. Columbia University Press. NY. 1328 pp.

Reese, W.D. 1984. Mosses of the Gulf South from Rio Grande to the Apalachicola. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, LA. 252 p.



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