

It belongs to a group whose sporangia are all secured by being clamped in under the recurved edge of the frond. The type and commonest representative of the group is the Bracken, which when fully fruiting shows its pinnules strongly contracted. There are two other genera in the group, the Cliff Brake (*Pellaea*) and the Rock Brake (*Cryptogramma*).

Along with the Maidenhair, but in deeper shade where no grass or herbage disputes its right to the peat and leaf-mould, especially under cedars and hemlocks, the Oak Fern is abundant. It also is a fern of peculiar charm and part of its pleasing appearance is due to a quality it shares with the Maidenhair; its growth is in two planes, the frond itself spreading more or less horizontally out from the top of the erect stem, which is tall and slender in proportion to the whole plant, dull-green above, brownish near the base. The frond is triangular and in appearance tripartite, the lowest pair of pinnae being far larger and more compound than those further up the rachis; the foliage of the frond has sometimes the appearance of a bluish-grey bloom on the under surface. It is not unlike a miniature bracken to look at.

The Beech Fern (2 species) is of the same genus and has similar characteristics; its growth also is in more than one plane, the very long upright stipe having a (proportionately) short frond at the top, this frond not entirely in the same line of growth as the stipe, and the lowest pair of pinnae (which are usually far the largest) carried forward and deflected like a pair of spurs at an angle to the rest of the frond. The Broad Beech Fern I have never found, but it is abundant near Owen Sound; the Narrow Beech Fern does not occur near Port Hope, but I have found it near Perth, at Lanark and in North Burgess; in the Algonquin Park it is exceedingly common, growing in great patches in the damp shaded woods and found even, in stunted form, far up the precipitous rock faces of railway cuttings and natural cliffs. The chief generic mark is that the sori or clusters of sporangia which are small and dark-brown are destitute of covering (indusium).

There is one other genus belonging to the same group, the Polypody or Rock Fern; I had to wait till I visited the Rideau before I saw this common fern, for it insists on rock; I have no doubt it is abundant as near us as Rice Lake. It has very large naked sori of a rich light gold colour.

The next two genera in the list of ferns have a distinct indusium protecting the sporangia clusters, the Spleenwort and the Shield Fern. Easily the most common of the former and with the widest range of habitat is the Lady Fern. It is about