

we spied a fine sheaf of one of the *Osmundas*; so fine that we swerved from the path to view it at nearer quarters: *Osmunda claytoniana*, truly a royal group, and hedged about with a body-guard of Sensitive Fern. As I stooped over to enjoy the sight I discovered some spikes thrusting up among the barren fronds of *Onoclea sensibilis*; the body-guard was fairly bristling with spears: it was the Adder's Tongue Fern. Walking carefully about we discovered an extensive colony, reaching back to the fence we had climbed, down the slope to the swamp's edge, and forward a little way round the margin of the swamp.

Three days later we were at the Rideau Ferry, and as we were examining some plants of *Botrychium obliquum* near the Bass Lake Creek, my friend spied the Adder's Tongue near some pines at a fence-corner. We were delighted to find it in a neighbourhood I knew so well and showed the colony to our host, my old pupil. After asking incredulously whether it was really a fern, he said he was sure he had seen it growing at the mine! Of course, if a friend asked me in strict confidence where he was likely to find *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, I should not recommend him to go to a mica-mine. But I knew my pupil was observant and we had meant to go to the mine anyway, so off we went.

In the first swamp edge—just above and outside a narrow swamp filled with sedge-grasses and the Marsh Fern—we found the Adder's Tongue; we found it in the swamp too, but only on and about peaty hummocks covered with crumbly turf, old ant-hills or something of the sort. We tried a second swamp that looked likely and found it once more. The illusion of its rarity was vanishing; what we had three times stumbled on accidentally, we were now deliberately hunting for in likely places (guided by experience).

A day or two later we went to the Algonquin Park where there are no clearings, and for a month we dismissed all thought of the Adder's Tongue. But at the beginning of September I returned to the Rideau and went to see the Bass Lake colony of *Ophioglossum*. I found that while nearly all other foliage was green, this fern had faded yellow and was easily detected. The leaves fairly dotted the marsh margins and drier parts of beaver meadows up and down both banks of the creek. I went to the mica-mine and discovered several new stations for the fern there; even a colony in a most unusual habitat, a deeply shaded cedar alley.

In the middle of September I returned to Port Hope and began investigations there. In four weeks I had found more than 20 stations for the Adder's Tongue, many of these stations comprising a large number of colonies and hundreds (if not