

## Mountain Fern

(*Thelypteris quelpaertensis*)

- Mountain fern is a crown-forming fern that can form large colonies.
- It can reach a height of 75 cm.
- On fertile fronds the undersides of the leaves are dotted with sori, clusters of spore bodies.
- In the cold climate of the Newfoundland mountains the spore bodies are often aborted.



### Provincial Distribution



### Habitat/ Range

The Newfoundland and Labrador population is the only one east of the Rocky Mountains. It is restricted to a few patches in a moist, open alpine meadow in a single valley found in Gros Morne National Park.

### Population Trends

The Gros Morne National Park population is estimated to contain 20 000 crowns of Mountain fern. It is unknown if these represent genetically distinct individuals. The population is thought to be relatively stable.

### Limiting Factors and Threats

Mountain fern is confined to a single valley and appears to be at its altitudinal and climatic limits, making it sensitive to stochastic events and climate change. Its habitat is protected because it is found within a National Park.

### Special Significance

The population on the island of Newfoundland is disjunct from the majority of the species' range in western Canada.

### You can help protect the mountain fern:

- Report any sighting to the Wildlife Division.
- Learn something new about a species at risk in Newfoundland and Labrador and tell a friend!

Department of Environment & Conservation

## Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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