

# Bladderfern communities of rocky crevices



Bladderfern communities

This fern-rich plant community is found in damp and shady rock crevices and cracks in walls. These crevices can be just a few millimetres wide, and the plants that grow here have only tiny amounts of soil and very little space for their roots. This community is dominated by small-statured species, as larger and more competitive species cannot survive under these conditions.

## Photos:

- 1** Many plant species of these rocky habitats such as the brittle bladderfern (*Cystopteris fragilis*) can grow even under very low-light conditions. Like most plants in these habitats, this fern requires a high level of humidity and is therefore often found on shaded rock walls at montane elevations. Photo: L. Köhler
- 2** Maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*) is a delicate fern that often colonises rock crevices. The green spleenwort (*Asplenium viride*) looks very similar but is less common. Photo: L. Köhler
- 3** The hart's-tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*) is easily distinguished from other native fern species by its undivided fronds. All other native species have feathery fronds. Photo: L. Köhler



Experimental Botanical Garden

More information

