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*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*

[Synonyms : *Aspidium dryopteris*, *Carpogymnia dryopteris*, *Currania dryopteris*, *Dryopteris disjuncta*, *Dryopteris dryopteris*, *Dryopteris linnaeana*, *Dryopteris linnaeana* f. *glandulosa*, *Dryopteris pulchella*, *Dryopteris pumila*, *Filix pumila*, *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* subsp. *brittonianum*, *Lastrea dryopteris*, *Nephrodium dryopteris*, *Phegopteris dryopteris*, *Polypodium dryopteris*, *Polypodium dryopteris disjunctum*, *Polypodium pulchellum*, *Thelypteris dryopteris*]

**OAK FERN** is a deciduous fern. Native to temperate northern regions it has small triangular green fronds.

It is also known as *Bukovník kaprad'ovitý* (Czech), Common oakfern, *Eichenfarn* (German), *Ekbräken* (Swedish), *Gymnocarpe fougère-du-chêne* (French), *Metsäimarre* (Finnish), Northern oak fern, *Sgeamh dharaich* (Irish Gaelic), True oak fern, and Western oakfern.

The spores are dispersed by wind.

It is protected in Northern Ireland under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

*Dryopteris* is derived from the genus name *Dryopteris* meaning 'like plants in that genus'.

For the Okanagan-Colville North American Indians sight of this oak fern meant the presence of water when they travelled in the mountains.