

PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE FIRST SYMPOSIUM  
ON  
THE BOTANY OF THE BAHAMAS

JUNE 11-14, 1985

College Center of the Finger Lakes  
Bahamian Field Station  
San Salvador, Bahamas

Editor

Robert R. Smith

Copyright: CCFL Bahamian Field Station 1986  
San Salador, Bahamas

All rights reserved. No part of this publication  
may be reproduced in any form without permission  
from the publisher.

Printed by Don Heuer  
in the United States of America

## FERNS AND FERN ALLIES OF SAN SALVADOR ISLAND, THE BAHAMAS

Robert R. Smith  
Hartwick College  
Oneonta, NY 13220

According to Correll and Correll (1982) there are 45 species of ferns and fern allies in the Bahamas. 80 percent of these have a range that extends into southern Florida. 67 percent are found in Cuba. Many of these are distributed throughout the West Indies, Mexico, Central or South America. One species, Marsilea nashii, is endemic, and two species, Macrothelypteris tornesiana and Nephrolepis multiflora, are naturalized.

San Salvador Island possesses 13 species of those found in southern Florida. The majority of the San Salvador Island species range from southern Florida through the northern and central Bahamas.

The fern and fern allies of San Salvador Island are rare except for two genera, Acrostichum and Thelypteris. These two genera may be found at several locations. Most of the fern genera are found at only one or two sites. The topography and climate of the Bahamas is not conducive to the establishment of a wide variety of pteridophytes. Suitable habitats are rare or lacking.

The ferns and fern allies that are found on San Salvador Island are:

### Psilotaceae

Psilotum nudum (L.) Beauv.

### Polypodiaceae

Acrostichum aureum L

A. danaeifolium Langd. & Fisch.

Adiantum tenerum Sw.

Asplenium dentatum L.

Nephrolepis multiflora (Roxb) Jarret ex Morton  
Polypodium aureum l.  
P. phyllitidis L.  
P. polypodioides (L.) Watt  
Pteridium aquilinum (L.) Kuhn  
Tectaria lobata (Presl) Morton  
Thelypteris kunthii (Desv.) Morton  
Vittaria lineata (L.) J.E. Sm.

The location and habitat for the San Salvador Island fern and fern allies are as follows (see map 1).

Psilotum nudum

n. part of island; on rotting palm stem in sinkhole.

Acrostichum aureum

s. w. part of island along margin of blue holes.

Acrostichum danaeifolium

along Jake Jones' road, n. part of island on margin of freshwater and brackish areas.

Adiantum ternerum

n. central part of island on wall of limestone pits in blacklands;

s. part of island in old well.

Asplenium dentatum

s. w. part of island in limestone pit in open rocky blacklands;

Nephrolepis multiflora

w. part of island; along street wall near bridge on 3rd street, Cockburn Town.

Polypodium aureum

central part of island s. e. of Guana Cay, locally frequent on sabal palms along margin of sinkholes.

Polypodium phyllitidis

central part of island s. e. of Guana Cay, infrequent on

trees in blacklands.

Polypodium polypodioides

central part of island s. e. of Guana Cay, occasional on  
base

of trees trunks in blacklands.

Pteridium aquilinum

s. w. of Flamingo Pond and e. of air field, along bulldozed  
trail in open blacklands.

Tectaria lobata

central part of island, s. e. of Guana Cay in limestone pits  
in blacklands.

s. w. part of island in limestone pits near Farquaharson's  
Plantation site.

Thelypteris kunthii

central part of island s.e. of Guana Cay in limestone pits.

w. part of island on wall of cave just n. of government  
buildings, Cockburn Town.

w. side of island in abandoned well in Cockburn Town.

Vittaria lineata

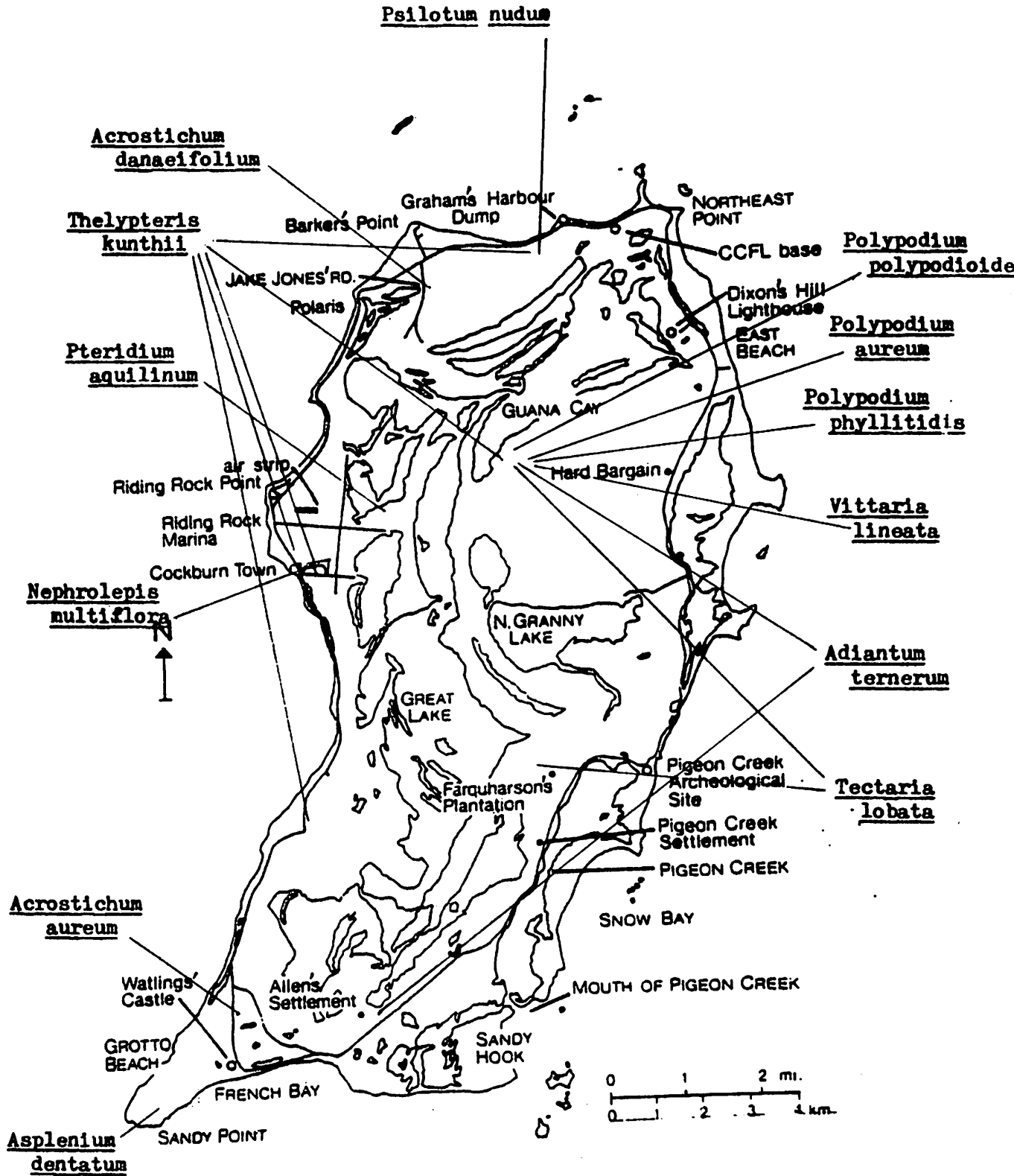
central part of island, s.e. of Guana Cay, infrequent on  
palms along margin of sinkholes.

REFERENCES:

Correll, D. S. and H. B. Correll, 1982. "The Flora of the Bahama  
Archipelago." (J.Cramer). Germany.

Smith, R.R. and J. Mauk. 1978. American Fern Journal  
Vol. 68 No. 2 p. 62

Map 1



SAN SALVADOR