

## 2019 June *Guess that Plant*



*Pellaea atropurpurea* (L.) Link, Purple Cliff Brake

The June *Guess that Plant* is a native fern restricted to New Jersey's northern Highland and Valley and Ridge Province counties. Purple cliff brake is an infrequent species found on limestone and trap rock outcrops, and may also grow on exposed masonry walls and stone foundations (Montgomery and Fairbrothers, 1992). The species is one of two *Pellaea* ferns found in New Jersey. The other species, smooth cliff brake, *Pellaea glabella*, has a similar distribution and habitat requirements. It is distinguished from the purple cliff brake by its smooth stipe and the vegetative and its fruiting fronds are similar. The purple cliff brake has a rough, hairy fertile fronds, and its fertile fronds are larger than the sterile fronds.

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