found. Such inclusions were reported previously to be present in a cultivated sample of this species[2]. No spindles have been found in pads of twenty cactus species examined shortly after field collection in Arizona, California and Montana.

In all cases, virus transmission was successful, as judged by the development of spindles, when sap from spindle-containing specimens was injected into or rubbed on the previously spindle-free pads of *Opuntia* species growing in the Montana State University greenhouse and the University of California at Los Angeles Botanical Garden.

No external symptoms appeared when representatives from the families Leguminosae, Solanaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Cruciferae, Tropaeolaceae or Cucurbitaceae were inoculated. Electron micrographs made from spindle-containing pads by the quick-dip method[3] showed two groups of elongated particles, with one length peak at 515 mμ (similar to cactus virus 1 (ref. 4)) and another at 300 mμ.

We wish to thank H. O. Agrawal and R. A. Solberg for help with some experiments, and Dr. L. Bos for the electron microscopy. This work was supported by the U.S. Public Health Service Grant No. *E*-596(*c*).

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Antimicrobial Substances from Ferns

It has been almost twenty years since Osborn[1] reported his now classical work on antimicrobial substances from green plants. Since that time the literature accumulated on this subject has been voluminous[2]. The vascular plants tested, however, have been essentially spermatophytes, with little attention to the pteridophytes. This work is concerned with the extraction of antimicrobial substances from thirty ferns collected at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. The specimens were selected at random, and the cut fronds were allowed to dry in air for at least one week before testing. Four additional dried ferns were obtained from other sources and likewise tested.

Extracts of the plants were prepared in the following manner: 15 gm. of pulverized material were added to 100 ml. of methanol and macerated in a Waring blendor for 3 min. and filtered. Filter-paper disks (6·35 mm. diam.) were saturated with the extract and allowed to dry for 3 hr. The surface of nutrient agar dishes was seeded with 0·5 ml. of a 48 hr. bacterial broth culture while 0·5 ml. of a one-week-old fungal culture was used to seed Sabauraud maltose agar dishes. The prepared disks were placed on the surface of the seeded dishes and incubated. All micro-organisms were incubated for 48 hr., the bacteria at 37° C., the fungi and *Erwinia caratovora* at 22° C. The zones of inhibition were measured from the disk edge to the zone edge and recorded in mm.

In Table 1 is listed the ferns and their zones of inhibition against 8 bacteria. No zones of inhibition were produced against *Aspergillus niger* ATCC 6277, *Candida albicans* ATCC 10231, *Gibberella fugikuroi* NRRL 2284, and *Helminthosporium trucicum* ATCC 11535. The results indicate that antibacterial substances were extracted in the methanol-soluble fraction from 33 of the 34 specimens tested and that plant pathogenic bacteria are more susceptible than human pathogens. This may perhaps explain the relative resistance of ferns to bacterial invaders. Additional extracts are being prepared in this Laboratory and will be the subject of future reports.

Table 1. Antibacterial Properties of Ferns

	11766	8061	10692	9637	9491	9372	8245	9592*
Cyatheaceae								
Alsophila cooperi	+	−	+	−	−	−	−	−
Cibotium glaucum	+	−	+	−	−	+	−	−
Cibotium menziesii	+	+	+	+	+	+	−	−
Cibotium schiedei	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Marrattiaceae								
Angiopteris evicta	+	−	+	+	+	+	+	−
Polypodiaceae								
Acrostichum aureum	−	−	−	−	−	−	−	−
Adiantum capillus-veneris	+	+	−	−	−	+	−	+
Adiantum trapeziforme	+	−	+	+	−	−	−	−
Asplenium nidus	+	−	+	+	−	+	−	+
Blechnum spicant	+	−	+	−	−	+	−	−
Cyrtomium falcatum	+	−	+	−	−	−	−	−
Davallia pentaphylla	−	+	+	−	−	−	−	+
Dennstaedtia punctilobula	+	−	+	+	−	+	+	−
Doodia media	+	−	+	−	−	−	−	−
Dryopteris dentata	+	−	−	−	+	+	+	−
Dryopteris filix-mas†	+ + +	−	+ +	−	+ +	+ −	+ +	+
Microlepia strigosa	+	+	+	−	−	−	−	−
Nephrolepis ensifolia	+	−	+	+	+	−	−	−
Nephrolepis exaltata, a variety	+	−	−	−	−	−	−	−
Polypodium aureus	+	−	−	−	−	+	−	−
Polypodium Meyenianum	+	−	−	−	−	+	−	−
Polypodium punctatum	+	−	+	+	+	+	−	−
Polypodium quercifolia	+	−	+	−	−	−	−	−
Polystichum tsus-simense	+	−	−	−	+	−	−	−
Pteridium aquilinum	−	+	−	−	−	−	−	−
Pteridium aquilinum†	−	+	−	−	−	−	−	−
Pteris tremula	−	+	+	−	+	+	+	−
Pteris vittata	+	−	+	−	+	−	−	−
Pyrrosia lingua	+	−	−	−	−	−	−	−
Stenochlaena tenuifolia	+	−	−	−	−	−	−	−
Tectaria cicutaria	+	−	+	−	+	−	−	−
Tectaria incisa	+	−	+	−	−	−	−	−
Thelyperis setigeria	+	+	−	−	+	−	−	−
Schizaeaceae								
Lygodium japonicum	+	−	+	−	+	+	+	−

* Bacterial test organisms: *Xanthomonas phaseoli* var. *sojensis* ATCC 11766, *Erwinia caratovora* ATCC 8061, *Pseudomonas solonacaerum* ATCC 10692, *Escherichia coli* ATCC 9637, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 9491, *Bacillus subtilis* var. *niger* ATCC 9372, *Bacillus megaterium* ATCC 8245, *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 9592.
† Rhizones and roots.
+, Zones of inhibition 1–5 mm.; + +, zones 6–10 mm.; + + +, zones 11–15 mm.; −, zone of inhibition absent.
Each extract was tested at least in triplicate.

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Introduction of the Potato into Western and Central Europe

The botanist Clusius, who prepared one of the first descriptions of the potato plant[1], indicated not only the time (the beginning of 1588) of his receiving from Philippe de Sivry (Prefect of the City of Mons, Belgium) two potato tubers and a berry, but also when Philippe de Sivry himself obtained the tubers. Clusius wrote that Philippe de Sivry had received it in the preceding year from a certain friend of the Papal Legate in Belgium under the name of 'Taratouffli'. ("Is a familiari quodam Legati Pontifici in Belgio se