

## FERN TERMINOLOGY HANDOUT

Circinate vernation – term describing the characteristic uncoiling of a fern frond

Fiddlehead/crozier – terms to describe the shape of the young, uncoiling frond

Annulus – specialized dehiscence mechanism of leptosporangia

Sorus – cluster of (lepto)sporangia found in “true” ferns

Indusium – a covering over a sorus that is an outgrowth of the leaf

### *Indusium Types*

Exindusiate – no indusium present

Indusiate – indusium in present

False Indusium – no separate outgrowth of leaf to form an indusium. Rather, the edge of the leaf curls over the sorus, providing the same function as a true indusium.

### *Other Sorus Terms and Shapes*

Peltate – umbrella-shaped. Indusium grows out of the middle of the sorus

Reniform – kidney-shaped. Indusium grows out of leaf right next to sorus to cover it

### *Heterosporous Water-Fern Terminology*

Sporocarp – modified leaf that encloses the sori

Sorophore – gelatinous backbone that takes up water and expands, breaking out of the sporocarp that bears the sori

*Anabaena* – cyanobacterium that forms a symbiotic association with the water fern, *Azolla*