

**THE ROLE OF NATURAL DISTURBANCE REGIMES IN
PTERIDOPHYTE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT**

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ABSTRACT

A general principle in pteridophyte ecology is proposed: that disturbance regimes at a variety of scales provide overlooked but often vital opportunities for pteridophyte regeneration processes. This promotes the long-term well-being of pteridophyte populations and their diversity. It is paramount in pteridophyte conservation management to appreciate the significance of such fundamental ecological processes, and to allow those which create disturbance regimes, and which help either initially to establish or to maintain the pteridophyte communities, to continue to operate fully.