

# *Adiantum atroviride*

## Family:

Pteridaceae

## Botanical name

*Adiantum atroviride* Bostock

Link to Australian Plant Name Index for publication details and synonyms:

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/154087>

## Common name:

Maidenhair Fern

## Description

Rhizome  $\pm$ erect or short- to very short-creeping, to 5 mm diam., stoloniferous or (in NT and Cape York Peninsula) stolons lacking; scales triangular, dark brown,  $\pm$ opaque, with shortly ciliate margins and prominent apical seta, or (in Cape York Peninsula) occasionally yellow,  $\pm$ translucent, with entire margins and acuminate apex, in both forms sometimes contorted but not spirally curled. Fronds erect to arching, to 75 cm long, usually loosely clustered, or (in Cape York Peninsula) markedly tufted. Stipe and rachises bearing few to many ephemeral 2-celled glandular hairs which secrete a pale yellow farina during frond enlargement. Stipe to 34 cm long, glossy, dark brown or purple-brown to black when mature and (in Cape York Peninsula) of milky appearance at maturity due to remains of glandular hairs. Rachises similar in colour and glossiness. Lamina 2–4-pinnate, ovate to narrowly triangular, 12–42 cm long, 8–30 cm wide. Pinnae ovate to triangular. Pinnules flabellate, rarely round; distal margins shallowly lobed; lobe margins denticulate when sterile, otherwise entire; small whitish nodosity usually present on rachis at junction with pinnule stalk; stalks not articulated. Sori 1–7 along distal margins, 1 or 2 per lobe; soral flaps round to reniform, usually at base of a deep often narrow sinus on pinnule margin. Spores 64 per sporangium, with largest diam. (27.6–) 40.3 (–54.7)  $\mu$ m.

## Distribution

Northern and eastern Australia. From the Torres Strait QLD to southern NSW and in Arnhem Land in the NT. Probably also in Melanesia.

## Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in the understorey of xeric to mesic vine forest or sclerophyll forest in a wide variety of geologies and vegetation communities.

## Cultivation

This is a commonly cultivated ornamental fern in tropical, subtropical and temperate areas. It is suited to cultivation in a semi-shaded to shaded part of the garden or in a greenhouse. It is suited to cultivation in the ground or in a container planted in a free-draining terrestrial growing medium. A tidy plant can be produced by removal of old fronds once per year just prior to the emergence of new fronds in spring. New plants are produced by spores or by division. Cape York forms are usually deciduous in the winter dry season.

## Similar species

Key to some *Adiantum* species of tropical Australia.

1a. Fronds pinnate = *Adiantum philippense*

1b. Fronds bipinnate or higher = 2

2a. Pinnules flabellate to rounded = 3

2b. Pinnules obliquely oblong to rhomboid = 5

3a. Soral flaps broadly attached to lamina and situated on the ends of lobes with incisions between them = *Adiantum capillus-veneris*

3b. Soral flaps reniform and narrowly attached to lamina and situated in incisions of the lamina margin with lobes between them = 4

4a. Rhizome long creeping, rhizome scales translucent with entire margins, plants stoloniferous and spreading, pinnae pale bright green when mature = *Adiantum aethiopicum*

4b. Rhizome short creeping, rhizome scales opaque with denticulate margins, not stoloniferous plants tufted, pinnae dark green when mature = *Adiantum atroviride*

5a. Rhizome long creeping, fronds scattered = 6

5b. Rhizome not long creeping, fronds tufted = 7



Close up of frond showing sori.

© G. Sankowsky



Habit. © CSIRO



Close up of frond. © CSIRO

6a. Primary pinnae progressively reducing in length from base to apex of frond resulting in a triangular lamina = *Adiantum formosum*

6b. Primary pinnae equal in length resulting in an ovate lamina = *Adiantum silvaticum*

7a. Pinnae soft and membraneous with fine black hairs on the undersurface, root tubers present, often proliferous, stipe smooth = *Adiantum diaphanum*

7b. Pinnae herbaceous to coreaceous with white hairs, root tubers absent, not proliferous, stipe not smooth = *Adiantum hispidulum*

#### Citation of Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes

Field AR, Quinn CJ, Zich FA (2022) Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes. [apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/intro/index.htm](https://apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/intro/index.htm) (accessed online INSERT DATE).

Field AR, Quinn CJ, Zich FA (2022) '*Platyserium superbum*', in Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes. [apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platyserium\\_superbum.htm](https://apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platyserium_superbum.htm) (accessed online INSERT DATE).

---

Copyright © Australian Tropical Herbarium 2022, all rights reserved.



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ferns>