

Adiantum caudatum

Family:

Pteridaceae

Botanical name

Adiantum caudatum L.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/51348691>

Common name:

Walking fern

Description

Rhizome erect, short; scales concolorous, golden brown, with entire margins. Fronds tufted, to 15(–40) cm long. Stipe to 5(–10) cm long, dark brown, hairs multicellular and dark brown to brown. Lamina 1-pinnate, lanceolate in outline, to 14(–17) cm long, 2–3 cm wide; rachis dark brown, hairs multicellular and dark brown to brown. Apex usually prolonged into a whiplike stolon rooting at tip to form new plantlet. Pinnules alternate, or lower ones subopposite, horizontally spreading or slightly obliquely spreading; lower pinnules gradually reduced, middle ones ± dimidiate, suboblong; brownish green; both surfaces sparsely multicellular hirsute; base asymmetrical; lower margins entire, upper margins deeply divided into many narrow lobes; lobes linear, margins entire, upper part again lobed into fine linear segments. Sori 5–12 per pinna; false indusia dark brown, orbicular or oblong, hairy, upper margins flat and straight, entire, persistent.

Distribution

In Australia this species is only known naturally from near Cooktown in north Queensland. Also widespread in Asia.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial or lithophytic in vine thickets on limestone (in Australia), near exposed rocks and roots. This species can spread adventitiously from buds on its leaf tips.

Cultivation

This is a commonly cultivated ornamental fern in tropical, subtropical and temperate areas. It is suited to cultivation in the ground or in a container planted in a free-draining but moisture retaining terrestrial growing medium. New plants are produced from leaf-tip offsets.

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 (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 (accessed online INSERT DATE).



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Whole plant from herbarium specimen. © Queensland Herbarium



Frond, from herbarium specimen. © Queensland Herbarium

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