

Alsophila rebecca

Family:

Cyatheaceae

Botanical name

Alsophila rebecca F.Muell.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/83634>

Description

Rhizome erect, to 6 m tall, to 10 cm diam., producing horizontal spreading suckers at base. Stipe very dark (rachis similar), c. 15 cm long; base densely covered with scales; scales to 15 mm long and 1 mm wide, very dark, with narrow fragile margins and filiform tips; pneumathodes on base of stipe deeply excavate, those on rachis shallow and widely spaced. Lamina to c. 2 m long; basal pinnae 3–4 cm long, succeeding ones progressively increasing to 50–60 cm long; distal ones sharply reduced below the terminal pinna; largest pinnules c. 6–7 cm long, 0.8–1.3 cm wide, adnate to the pinna rachis, broadly and \pm deeply crenate; apices narrowly acuminate and serrate; bases of lower pinnules on large pinnae dilated; veins grouped under each marginal crenature; basal vein of each group often arising directly from the costa but always in close association with other veins; basal scales on costae dark, narrow, with pale fragile margins and setiform apices, grading to shorter paler scales. Sori on \pm middle of each vein forming 1 or 2 irregular rows, exindusiate; paraphyses short, flat at base.

Distribution

Endemic to NE QLD between Iron Range and Shoalwater Bay.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in rainforest in a wide variety of situations. This is a common understorey tree-fern and forms colonies along roadsides in wet montane areas.

Natural history

This is a common species on roadside banks in rainforest.

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) '*Platynerium superbum*', in Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes. apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platynerium_superbum.htm (accessed online INSERT DATE).



Close up of frond showing sori shape and position. Copyright CSIRO



Close up of frond showing sori shape and position. Copyright G. Sanowsky



Close up of frond showing upper (adaxial) surface. Copyright G. Sankowsky



Close up of frond showing upper (adaxial) surface. © A.R. Field



Stipe scales, crozier. © A.R. Field



Stipe scales. Copyright CSIRO



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