

Arachniodes aristata

Family:

Dryopteridaceae

Botanical name

Arachniodes aristata (G.Forst.) Tindale

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/98242>

Common name:

Prickly Shield Fern

Description

Rhizome long-creeping, densely scaly; scales narrowly triangular to linear, 4–10 mm long, 0.2–0.8 mm wide, brown, with a long-attenuate apex. Fronds spaced along the rhizome. Stipe 15–60 cm long, scaly. Lamina pentagonal, 23–45 cm long, 14–30 cm wide, dark green and glossy above, paler and glossy beneath, coriaceous, somewhat prickly; apex abruptly acuminate; main rachis pale, sparsely scaly. Ultimate segments ovate, 5–20 mm long, 3–8 mm wide; base unequally cuneate; margins with long sharp teeth; apex with a short point. Sori terminal on basal branches on the apical side of the secondary veins; indusium reniform, with a dark centre.

Distribution

Palaeotropical. In Australia it occurs from Windsor Tableland in NE QLD to NSW.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in a wide variety of rainforest types. Often seen on road banks and hillslopes.

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).



Close up of frond showing sori.
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Close up of frond showing sori.
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Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Habit. © CSIRO



Stipe scales, rhizome. © G. Sankowsky

