

Asplenium capitisyork

Family:

Aspleniaceae

Botanical name

Asplenium capitisyork D.L.Jones

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/105278>

Common name:

Cape York Spleenwort

Description

Lithophytic ferns forming large clumps with semi-erect fronds. Rhizome short-creeping, scaly. Stipe and rachis dark chocolate brown, becoming green near apices, brittle, abundantly scaly; stipe 5–25 cm long, 1–2 mm diam.; rachis usually proliferous below terminal pinna. Lamina narrowly elliptic or narrowly ovate, pinnate, 20–45 cm long, 5–8 cm wide, dark green above, pale below; underside scaly; veins conspicuous. Pinnae in 15–25 pairs, ovate or narrowly ovate, with an enlarged basal acroscopic lobe; bases unequally cuneate, shortly stalked; margins ± doubly serrate; apices obtuse to acuminate; longest pinnae at or below the middle, 2.5–4.5 cm long, 12–16 mm wide, gradually reducing upwards, usually ending in a large terminal segment. Sori to 10 mm long. Perisporangia pale with smooth broad prominent ridges and smooth lacunae; exosporangia 32.1–40.8 µm long, 21.8–24.8 µm wide (means).

Distribution

Endemic to Cape York Peninsula QLD from Maloney Springs to the Mcllwraith Range.

Habit and habitat

Lithophytic on granite boulders piles in rainforest or on boulders in stream beds.

Natural history

Can be locally abundant forming large colonies and is deciduous in drought years. An attractive horticultural fern. This may be conspecific with species from Papua New Guinea.

Cultivation

This species is occasionally cultivated as an ornamental fern. It is easiest to grow in a container of coarse free draining mix or on a rock in a tropical fernery or moist shaded rock garden.

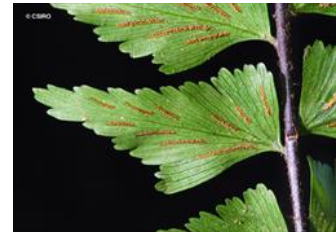
Similar species

Asplenium paleaceum and *Asplenium carnarvonense* are similar in frond and pinnae shape but they differ in their distribution.

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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Habit. © CSIRO



Habit. © CSIRO



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