

Asplenium parvum

Family:

Aspleniaceae

Botanical name

Asplenium parvum Watts

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/105798>

Description

Lithophytic ferns with erect or semi-erect fronds. Rhizome short-creeping, scaly. Stipe and rachis dark red-brown throughout, bearing abundant short glandular hairs; stipe 2–20 cm long, 0.2–2 mm diam. Lamina narrowly elliptic or narrowly ovate, pinnate, 4–50 cm long, 1.6–11 cm wide, bronze-green, with very sparse, glandular hairs on lower surface. Pinnae in 10–25 pairs, narrowly ovate; bases unequally cuneate, shortly stalked; margins slightly serrate in small specimens, deeply and slightly irregularly toothed in large specimens; apices acuminate; longest pinnae near middle, 8–70 mm long, 5–10 mm wide, gradually reducing upwards to an acuminate pinnatifid apical portion. Sori to 8 mm long. Perisporos dark, reticulate, fenestrate; exospores 30.7–33.7 × 19.5–21.9 μm (means).

Distribution

Mt Windsor Tableland to Eungella in NE QLD. Also in Malasia and Pacific Islands.

Habit and habitat

Epiphytic or lithophytic in high-rainfall montane vine forest.

Natural history

This species is unique among Australian *Asplenium* in having glandular hairs on the stipe and rachis.

Similar species

Similar to *Asplenium polyodon* but distinguished by *A. parvum* having abundant short glandular hairs on its stipe and rachis and by its shorter pinnae.

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. © G. Sankowsky

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