

Blechnopsis orientalis

Family:

Blechnaceae

Botanical name

Blechnopsis orientalis (L.) C.Presl

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/213827>

Description

Rhizome forming an erect trunk. Sterile and fertile fronds similar, 22–130 cm or more long, 8–54 cm or more wide. Stipe 1–9 cm long, dark purplish; scales narrow, subulate, mostly entire, brown to reddish brown. Lamina lanceolate to ovate, pinnate, with 6–33 or more pairs of pinnae (excluding auricles); pinnae narrowly lanceolate, 5–21 cm long, 5–20 mm wide, sessile or partly adnate at base of lamina, increasingly adnate basiscopically towards lamina apex; margins entire; basal pinnae gradually reduced to small rounded auricles; rachis and costae pale pinkish brown, glabrous or with sparse irregular hairs and slender reddish brown scales. Sori close to and on either side of costa. Spores $43 \times 33 \mu\text{m}$; perine smooth to rugulose to scaberulous, sometimes alate; exine smooth to scaberulous to minutely verrucose, with granulose to vermiculate envelope. $2n = c. 64-66$, M.D.Tindale, pers. comm.

Distribution

Occurs in tropical WA, NT and QLD. Also widespread in Asia, Malesia and Pacific Islands.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in a wide variety of vegetation communities usually on wet banks in sunlit areas. It is a common pioneer of roadbanks in rainforest areas and can form large colonies.

Natural history

The small auricles along the stipe make this species easy to identify. New fronds are often pinkish-orange.

Cultivation

Grows well in a large tub or in the ground in a well lit fernery or garden in tropical areas.

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.

© G. Sankowsky



Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Close up of frond showing sori.

© G. Sankowsky



Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Stipe scales. © G. Sankowsky



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ferns>