

# *Cheilanthes brownii*

**Family:**

Pteridaceae

**Botanical name**

*Cheilanthes brownii* (Kuhn) Domin

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/62314>

**Common name:**

Woolly Resurrection Fern

**Description**

Fronds to 35 cm long and 5 cm wide; stipe and rachis dark brown to black, with sparse to dense, slender, pointed hairs (6–12 cells), and very sparse scales. Lamina elliptic or lanceolate, 2 (–3)-pinnate (–4)-pinnatifid at base, larger pinnae narrow-triangular; pinnules obtuse, triangular; margins entire or lobed; upper surface with sparse to, more usually, very dense long hairs; lower surface with extremely dense, long hairs. Spores spherical, smooth or granulate, with varying amount of globular or randomly branched ornamentation or, sometimes, echinate processes; either ridged, 47–71 µm diam. and 16 per sporangium, or trilete, 34–48 µm diam. and 32 per sporangium.

**Distribution**

Coastal and inland regions of tropical and subtropical Australia in QLD, NT and WA.

**Habit and habitat**

Terrestrial in soil pockets and rock crevices in open woodland hillsides in arid, semi-arid or monsoon areas. Not usually in rainforest but sometimes on exposed granite domes in rainforest areas.

**Natural history**

Named after botanist Robert Brown, naturalist on Mathew Flinders circumnavigation of Australia. Brown collected the type in Arnhem Bay.

**Cultivation**

Best grown in a small container or in a shallow pocket of growing medium on rock in a well lit part of a tropical garden. This species does not like being kept wet all year round.

**Similar species**

Similar to *Cheilanthes lasiophylla* which has branched lamina hairs instead of the unbranched hairs found in *C. brownii*.

**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](https://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](https://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. © G. Sankowsky



Habit. © A.R. Field

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