

## *Cheilanthes pumilio*

**Family:**

Pteridaceae

**Botanical name**

*Cheilanthes pumilio* (R.Br.) F.Muell.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/62442>

**Description**

Fronds to 50 cm long and 15 cm wide; stipe and rachis dark brown or red-brown, glabrous or with sparse to moderately dense hairs (of various lengths, some glandular) and scales. Lamina triangular or ovate, 1–3-pinnate, 1-pinnate or 2-pinnatifid for most of length, membranous; larger pinnae triangular, ovate or lanceolate; lowest pair of pinnae often unequally basiscopically divided; pinnules elliptic, oblong or triangular, sometimes slightly caudate; margins entire or lobed; upper and lower surfaces glabrous or with sparse to dense, short to long, slender or cottony hairs (1–7 cells), densest at margins and midribs; veins conspicuous. Spores granulose with echinate ornamentation; either rounded-tetrahedral and trilete, 33–50 µm diam. and 32 per sporangium, or spherical, 50–68 µm diam. and 16 per sporangium.

**Distribution**

Endemic to tropical Australia in QLD, NT and WA.

**Habit and habitat**

Terrestrial in soil pockets, rock cracks near creek banks, gorges or in rocky mountainous habitats. In open woodland or rainforest.

**Cultivation**

Best cultivated in a small container of free draining growing medium or on an earthbank in a tropical garden or fernery. This species requires more shade and more frequent watering than other tropical *Cheilanthes*.

**Similar species**

Similar to *Cheilanthes praetermissa* and *C. nudiuscula*. *Cheilanthes pumilio* is readily distinguished by its thin-textured laminae and distinct lateral veins. This is a species of wetter habitats than most other *Cheilanthes*.

**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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Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Habit. © B. Gray

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