

## *Cheilanthes tenuifolia*

### Family:

Pteridaceae

### Botanical name

*Cheilanthes tenuifolia* (Burm.f.) Sw.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/62496>

### Description

Fronds to 63 cm long and 17 cm wide; stipe and rachis dark red-brown, glabrous or with sparse hairs (2–13 cells) and very sparse, slender scales. Lamina pentagonal, triangular or ovate, 3–4-pinnate at base, 3-pinnate for most of length; larger pinnae triangular-ovate; pinnules lanceolate or ovate; ultimate pinnules sometimes slightly caudate; margins entire or lobed; upper and lower surfaces with very sparse, short (less than 0.5 mm), pointed hairs (2 or 3 cells), occasionally almost glabrous. Spores tetrahedral or rounded-tetrahedral, granulose and trilete, with varying amount of reticulate-echinate ornamentation, 38–53 µm diam., 32 per sporangium.

### Distribution

Occurs in coastal regions of the NT and QLD. Also in Asia, Malesia, Melanesia, Polynesia and Australia.

### Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in the ground layer of coastal open woodland, usually in rocky areas.

### Similar species

Similar to *Cheilanthes contigua*. The two species can usually be separated on pinnule shape, those of *C. tenuifolia* tending to be ovate and acute and those of *C. contigua* obovate and obtuse. The pinnae of *C. tenuifolia* are not usually as well-separated along the rachis nor are the pinnules as crowded as they usually are in *C. contigua*. Rarely, specimens of *C. tenuifolia* have somewhat caudate pinnule tips, but these are not as strikingly caudate as *C. caudata*, nor are the pinnules glabrous.

### Citation of Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes

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Close up of frond showing upper (adaxial) side. © K. Sosa



Close up of frond showing sori. © K. Sosa



Close up of frond showing sori. © K. Sosa



Frond. © K. Sosa



Habit. © K. Sosa



Habit. © Australian Tropical Herbarium



Close up of frond showing sori.  
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