

## *Chingia australis*

### Family:

Thelypteridaceae

### Botanical name

*Chingia australis* Holttum

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/64875>

### Description

Rhizome forming a trunk to c. 30 cm tall and 4–8 cm diam. Fronds to 2.6 m long, bright green. Stipe to 110 cm long, bearing minute capitate hairs throughout, rather sparsely scaly above the base; scales flat,  $\pm$ erect, to 10 mm long, 1 mm wide. Lamina ovate, to 150 cm long, to 66 cm wide, with up to 40 pairs of pinnae; basal pinnae to c. 24 cm long, a little narrowed at their bases; largest pinnae to 33 cm long, 3 cm wide, narrowly acuminate, lobed to a depth of 3–6 mm (to slightly more than one-third distance to costa); costules c. 4 mm apart; veins to 10 pairs, 2 pairs anastomosing and (1–) 2 (–4) pairs passing to the sides of the sinus membrane, not prominent; sinus membrane one-quarter to one-third width of pinna; lower surface with copious slender erect capitate hairs 0.1–0.2 mm long; rachis with short narrow scales with thick terete bases on adaxial side. Sori small, exindusiate or bearing a rudimentary indusium (soon eclipsed by developing sporangia), adjacent to or sometimes overlapping the costule; indusium, when present, bearing marginal 2-celled glandular hairs; sporangia glabrous, or bearing a long acicular hair, or rarely a capitate hair, near the annulus; sporangial stalk glabrous.

### Distribution

Endemic to the Wet Tropics of NE Queensland between Bloomfield River and Johnstone River.

### Habit and habitat

Terrestrial on disturbed banks in lower montane mesic vine forest.

### Natural history

*Chingia australis* appears to be a soil disturbance pioneer.

### 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) '*Platynerium superbum*', in Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes. [apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platynerium\\_superbum.htm](https://apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platynerium_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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Close up of frond showing sori.

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Close up of frond showing upper (adaxial) surface. © G.

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Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Stipe showing scales. © G.

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Rhizome and crozier. © G. Sankowsky



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