

Christella parasitica

Family:

Thelypteridaceae

Botanical name

Christella parasitica (L.) H.Lev.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/67686>

Description

Rhizome short-creeping (not in Australia) or long-creeping, slender. Fronds to 80 cm long, dull to bright lime-green, sticky when young. Stipe to 40 cm long, copiously hairy. Lamina ovate, to 40 cm long, with c. 20 pairs of closely and \pm evenly spaced pinnae; basal pinnae not progressively reduced in length, auriculate on acroscopic base; largest pinnae c. 16 cm long, 2 cm wide, lobed two-thirds to three-quarters of way to costae; veins 8–10 pairs, basal pair anastomosing, next pair passing to margin above base of sinus or sometimes the second acroscopic veins touching the sinus membrane; lower surface typically covered with slender erect hairs to 1 mm long; veins in pinna lobes usually with thick clavate orange glandular hairs. Sori medial, lower ones divergent; indusium hairy.

Distribution

Endeavour River NE QLD to SE QLD. Also widespread in Malesia and Pacific Islands.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in lowland swamp rainforest, also in disturbed sites in montane rainforest.

Natural history

Fronds have a spicy aroma when crushed. Putative hybrids with other *Christella* have been observed.

Cultivation

Readily grown in a container or in the ground in a tropical garden or fernery. Can be invasive in some situations.

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.

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Habit. © G. Sankowsky



Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Complete frond. © A.R. Field

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