

## *Davallia pectinata*

### Family:

Davalliaceae

### Botanical name

*Davallia pectinata* Sm.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/119115>

### Common name:

Comb Hares-Foot Fern

### Description

Rhizome slender, white-waxy, densely covered with appressed, red-brown scales with pale scarious margins bearing fragile deciduous hairs. Fronds simple, pinnatifid, usually narrowly triangular, 12–21 cm long, coriaceous. Stipe 4–11 cm long, bearing similar scales; rachis with scattered scales on lower surface, glabrous on upper surface. Pinnae deeply lobed almost to rachis, widest point 35–75 mm; upper surface glabrous; lower surface with scattered scales often reduced to a minute peltate base with crisped marginal hairs; lobe margins entire to crenulate except for basal pair which have an auricle on the lower base and often several further lobes reducing towards apex; apex rounded on sterile lobes to almost acuminate on fertile lobes; false veins absent. Sori superficial,  $\pm$  marginal, in a regular row; indusium semi-circular, attached along the broad base, opening towards apex of lobe.

### Distribution

Asia, Malesia, Australia and Pacific Islands. In Australia known only from the Torres Strait, Iron Range and McIlwraith Ranges in NE QLD.

### Habit and habitat

Epiphytic, lithophytic and terrestrial in rainforest near watercourses. An occasional inhabitant of nest-epiphytes.

### Natural history

The fronds of this species roll upwards when dehydrated.

### Cultivation

Readily cultivated in a pot or hanging basket in a tropical garden or fernery.

### Similar species

Key to *Davallia repens* and *Davallia pectinata*

1a. Fronds pinnatifid with a comb-like arrangement of many lateral lobes, lamina longer than wide = *Davallia pectinata*

1b. Fronds pinnatifid with a palm-like arrangement of few lateral lobes, lamina roughly as long as wide = *Davallia repens*

### 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. © CSIRO



Rhizome; stipe scales. © G.

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Habit. © CSIRO





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