

## *Diplazium australe*

**Family:**

Athyriaceae

**Botanical name**

*Diplazium australe* (R.Br.) N.A.Wakef.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/77402>

**Common name:**

Austral Lady Fern

**Description**

Rhizome erect, to 8 cm long, with dull dark brown to black scales. Fronds arcuate. Stipe 24–80 cm long, black and scaly at the base, deeply 3-grooved. Lamina 3-pinnate, 30–120 cm long, broadly triangular, 20–90 cm wide, membranous, brittle, dark green. Pinnules oblong, 5–25 mm long, 2–10 mm wide; base broadly attached to the axis; margins bluntly toothed or shallowly lobed less than half-way to the costule, decurrent on the lower side; apex obtuse. Sori 1–2 mm long, 3–5 per pinnule, mostly single; indusium pale brown, fragile.

**Distribution**

Wet Tropics, Eungella and subtropical and temperate eastern Australia. Also in New Zealand.

**Habit and habitat**

Terrestrial in shaded gullies in wet sclerophyll forest and rainforest.

**Similar species**

Similar to *Diplazium queenslandicum*.

1a. Pinnules of fertile laminae toothed or lobed less than a third of the distance to the midvein; margins on the lower side decurrent; indusium fawn = *D. australe*

1b. Pinnules of fertile laminae lobed more than half-way to the midvein; margin on the lower side not decurrent indusium brown to dark brown = *D. queenslandicum*

**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. © APII

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