

Dipteris conjugata

Family:

Dipteridaceae

Botanical name

Dipteris conjugata Reinw.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/80210>

Description

Rhizome creeping, to c. 1.5 cm diam., covered with stiff reddish brown bristles. Frond arching, to c. 3.5 m long. Stipe stout, to 2.75 m long, bearing bristles at the base, otherwise smooth and glabrous. Lamina divided to the base into 2 flabellate halves, dark green above, glaucous beneath, coriaceous, glabrous; each half to more than 60 cm long, usually twisted through 90° in the living plant, spreading ± horizontally, deeply divided into 4 unequal lobes which are themselves less deeply divided 1 or more times; lobes tapering into narrow acute apices; margins coarsely toothed; main veins repeatedly forked. Sori small and numerous, borne on minor veins over most of the lower surface.

Distribution

Occurs at a few high altitude areas on the Atherton and Evelyn Tableland NE QLD. Also in Asia, Malesia and the Pacific Islands.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial or rarely lithophytic on disturbed earthbanks on rainforest margins in well-lit areas. This species forms large stands on roadbanks.

Natural history

Juveniles appear to germinate only on exposed soil, colonies persist in well lit areas until the canopy closes over.

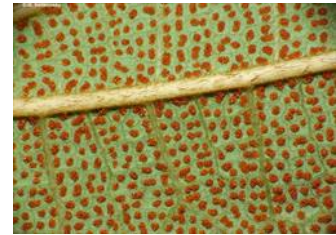
Cultivation

Considered extremely difficult to cultivate outside of its natural range and habitat.

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) '*Platynerium superbum*', in Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes. 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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Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Habit. © G. Sankowsky



Young frond; stipe hairs. © G. Sankowsky



Rhizome. © G. Sankowsky



Close up of frond showing sori.

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Frond. © A.R. Field



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