

Doodia caudata

Family:

Blechnaceae

Botanical name

Doodia caudata (Cav.) R.Br.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/71082>

Common name:

Small Rasp Fern

Description

Rhizome erect, to 10 cm tall, or short- to long-creeping. Stipe without tubercles. Fronds dimorphic. Fertile lamina pinnate, 5.7–46 cm long, 0.5–18 cm wide; apical lobe (one-third–) one-sixth to one-ninth of lamina length. Pinnae simple, stalked in basal third of lamina, stalked to partly adnate to decurrent in middle third, partly adnate to decurrent in distal third; longest pinnae 2–110 mm long, 1–4 mm wide; rachis and pinna midvein without tubercles. Sori 0.8–10 mm or more long, 0.8–1.5 mm wide, usually laterally confluent when mature, always confluent across pinna midvein, 1 row of several indusia or 1 unbroken indusium on each side of pinna midvein, nearer to midvein than margin.

Distribution

Endemic to E Australia between Hann Tableland in NE QLD and East Gippsland in Vic, also in Tasmania and Lord Howe Island. In NE QLD it is usually found on the western tableland regions.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial on banks and creeks in rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest.

Cultivation

Readily cultivated in a container or in the ground in a semi-shaded tropical, subtropical or temperate garden or fernery.

Similar species

Key to tropical Australian species of *Doodia*:

- 1a. Fronds strap-like and unlobed for more than half of their length = *Doodia linearis*
- 1b. Fronds pinnately lobed, not strap-like for more than half their length = 2
- 2a. Pinnae sessile and decurrent throughout = *Doodia aspera*
- 2b. Lower pinnae stalked, upper pinnae sessile and decurrent = 3
- 3a. Transition from stalked to sessile decurrent pinnae abrupt over 1–3 pinna pairs = *Doodia media*
- 3b. Transition from stalked to sessile decurrent pinnae gradual over 4–6 pinna pairs = 4
- 4a. Lower and mid pinnae deeply pinnatifid or pinnatisect = *Doodia dissecta*
- 4b. Lower and mid pinnae simple, not as above = *Doodia caudata*

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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