

Dryopteris sparsa

Family:

Dryopteridaceae

Botanical name

Dryopteris sparsa (D. Don) Kuntze

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/58389>

Description

Rhizome erect. Apex scaly; scales ovate, 5–8 mm long, papery, pale brown. Fronds tufted. Stipe 20–45 cm long, stramineous to brown, darker at base, brittle. Lamina 2–3-pinnate, pentagonal, 20–35 cm long, 25–38 cm wide, chartaceous, dull pale green on both surfaces; apex abruptly acuminate; rachis glabrous, covered with small, elongated protuberances. Ultimate segments 5–15 mm long, 3–10 mm wide; base asymmetrically cuneate; margins with rounded lobes and 1 or more short teeth on the upper side of each lobe above the sinus between the lobes; veins forked 1–3-times. Sori medial on vein branches; indusium reniform, fawn.

Distribution

Restricted to high altitude areas on the Carbine Tableland, Mt Bellenden Ker and Mt Bartle Frere in NE QLD. Also in Asia and Malesia.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial, usually on rocks in shaded areas in high montane rainforest in very wet areas.

Similar species

Similar to *Dryopteris hasseltii*. *Dryopteris sparsa* is distinct in having indusia (cf. exindusiate in *Dryopteris hasseltii*).

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.

© G. Sankowsky



Close up of frond showing sori.

© G. Sankowsky



Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Stipe scales; rhizome. © G.

Sankowsky

Copyright © Australian Tropical Herbarium 2022, all rights reserved.



Web edition hosted at <https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ferns>