

Haplopteris elongata

Family:

Pteridaceae

Botanical name

Haplopteris elongata (Sw.) E.H.Crane

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/51294653>

Common name:

Tape Fern, Ribbon Fern

Description

Rhizome short- to moderately long-creeping, branched, densely scaly, thickly covered with dark roots with spreading ginger hairs; scales 4–7 (–10) mm long, very slender, uniformly reddish brown when young, ageing black; cell walls uniformly thick; apex hair-like with irregularly toothed margins. Fronds scattered. Lamina linear, 25–90 cm long, 3–5 (–10) mm wide, tapered to both ends, dark green, glossy, thinly coriaceous; midvein prominent in broad-leaved forms; lateral veins very oblique. Paraphyses branched; terminal cells clavate, about as long as wide.

Distribution

In Australia widespread in wet areas from Torres Strait to SE QLD. Widespread in the Palaeotropics.

Habit and habitat

Epiphytic in the canopy and subcanopy, often growing on other epiphytes, humus or moss, also on fallen logs and large boulders in rainforest.

Cultivation

Readily cultivated in moist tropical climates in a hanging basket, on a slab or planted in the base of an epiphytic nest fern. This species resents disturbance but grows well once established.

Similar species

Haplopteris elongata and *H. ensiformis* are often confused. The rhizome of *H. elongata* is short to moderately long creeping and has uniformly coloured scales whereas the rhizome of *H. ensiformis* is very short creeping and has scales with a darker middle band and slightly paler margins. The fronds of *H. elongata* are generally flatter, broader and lighter green and new growth has a more revolute crozier than *H. ensiformis*, which has fronds that are somewhat thicker and sometimes cupped in cross section, darker green and with a less revolute crozier. Some plants of *H. elongata* from hot lowland tropical swamp forests are very large, have broad apple green fronds and a long creeping rhizome, and they can invade the nests of other epiphytes and form large colonies.

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).



Habit. © CSIRO



Habit. © CSIRO



Close up of frond showing sori.

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