

# *Hymenophyllum polyanthos*

## Family:

Hymenophyllaceae

## Botanical name

*Hymenophyllum polyanthos* (Sw.) Sw.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/80341>

## Description

Rhizome slender, wiry, branched. Fronds 2.3–25.5 cm long, pendulous. Stipes 0.6–6 cm long, scattered along the rhizome, narrowly winged for most of their length. Lamina irregularly linear to narrowly lanceolate, deeply 3-pinnatifid or more divided, 1.8–19.5 cm long, 0.8–4.7 cm wide, glabrous; wing on the main rachis flat; pinnae and their segments overlapping; ultimate segments linear, obtuse, 0.4–1.4 mm wide, uniformly 1 cell thick. Sori numerous, more abundant in the upper part of the frond; involucre ovate to elliptic, bilabiate, divided to the middle, remainder immersed in the apices of ultimate segments, 0.7–2.3 mm long, 0.7–1.5 mm wide, narrower than the segments; margins entire, rarely uneven; receptacle included.

## Distribution

Occurs on Cape York Peninsula and the Daintree-Mossman region of NE QLD. Also widespread in the Palaeotropics.

## Habit and habitat

Epiphytic on tree trunks and branches or lithophytic in complex notophyll and mesophyll vine forest, usually near creeks.

## Natural history

An extremely widespread pantropical filmy-fern species complex with variations in frond dissection found in different populations. The Australian population is recognised as *Hymenophyllum polyanthos* subsp. *contiguum*.

## Similar species

## 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.

© CSIRO



Habit. © CSIRO



Habit. © CSIRO



Habit. © A.R. Field

Copyright © Australian Tropical Herbarium 2022, all rights reserved.



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