

## *Lindsaea ensifolia*

**Family:**

Lindsaeaceae

**Botanical name**

*Lindsaea ensifolia* Sw.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/112846>

**Description**

Rhizome short- to long-creeping, 1–2.5 mm diam.; scales narrowly triangular, to 2 mm long, pale reddish brown. Fronds monomorphic. Stipes distant, 10–35 cm long, usually shorter than lamina, stramineous to reddish brown. Lamina 1-pinnate, narrowly oblong, narrowly ovate or ±linear, 15–45 (–50) cm long; Pinnules spreading to strongly ascending, narrowly ovate to linear, only moderately reduced towards apex; base ±asymmetrical; apex acute to obtuse, sometimes acuminate. Terminal pinnule similar in shape and size to laterals, usually free, occasionally connected with 1 or 2 uppermost lateral pinnules; midrib distinct. Sori continuous; indusium 0.3–0.5 mm wide, entire. Spores trilete, pale brown.

**Distribution**

Widespread in tropical and subtropical Australia. Also widespread in the Palaeotropics.

**Habit and habitat**

Terrestrial in a wide variety of forested and open woodland habitats, often near creeks or soaks.

**Natural history**

An extremely widespread fern with two lamina dissection forms. *Lindsaea ensifolia* subsp. *ensifolia* is pinnate with a undivided terminal and basal lateral pinnae and *Lindsaea ensifolia* subsp. *agatii* is bipinnate with a decurrent aspect and pinnate to pinnatifid basal lateral pinnae.

**Similar species**

The combination of anastomosing veins, narrowly ovate to lanceolate pinnae and yellow-brown stipe distinguish this species from other Australian *Lindsaea*. *Lindsaea ensifolia* is similar to *Lindsaea walkerae* but has a paler stipe.

**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.

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Close up of frond showing upper (adaxial) side. © G. Sankowsky

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