

Lygodium flexuosum

Family:

Schizaceae

Botanical name

Lygodium flexuosum (L.) Sw.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/100374>

Description

Rhizome short-creeping. Juvenile fronds once-forked; pinnae palmate, 5–7-lobed; margins crenulate to serrulate. Rachis slightly pubescent, subterete, flattened on 1 side, narrowly winged or tetragonous; primary rachis branches 2–16 mm long; secondary pinnae narrowly ovate to oblong or rarely palmate, 7–20 cm long, 4.5–12 cm wide, 1–2-pinnate; pinnule stalks reducing in length towards pinna apex; ultimate pinnules 1.5–10 cm long, 5–16 mm wide; sterile ones sometimes fused basally and palmately-lobed, membranous, glabrous or sparsely pubescent; base truncate; margins serrulate; veins free; sterile pinnules similar in length or longer than sporogenous ones. Sporogenous lobes 1.5–8 mm long.

Distribution

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

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial climber in lowland to lower montane vine forest and open forest, usually on margins, riparian or in open sites.

Natural history

A common species that forms large climber towers on trees in some disturbed areas.

Similar species

Lygodium microphyllum and *Lygodium reticulatum*.

1a. Lateral veins in pinnules forming a network = *Lygodium reticulatum*

1b. Lateral veins in pinnules not forming a network = 2

2a. Pinnules articulated at base, deciduous = *Lygodium microphyllum*

2b. Pinnules not articulated at base, persistent (look for dead pinnules hanging on frond) = *Lygodium flexuosum*

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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Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Close up of frond showing sori.

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Habit. © CSIRO

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