

Macrothelypteris torresiana

Family:

Thelypteridaceae

Botanical name

Macrothelypteris torresiana (Gaudich.) Ching

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/58656>

Description

Rhizome very short-creeping, to c. 1 cm diam. Frond to 120 cm long, herbaceous, pale green. Stipe to 50 cm long, glaucous when young; persistent base swollen and covered with narrow dark brown scales. Lamina deeply 3-pinnatifid, to 70 cm long, 50 cm wide; pinnae 12–15 pairs; sub-basal pinnae longest, to 20 cm long, 9 cm wide, pinnate, with all pinnules but the lowest adnate to a narrow green-winged pinna rachis; largest pinnules to 8 cm long, 2.5 cm wide, cut almost to costa in oblique dentate to deeply lobed segments; costae and costules with ± transparent scattered slender hairs on lower surface; some hairs multicellular and more than 1 mm long; lower surface of pinnule bearing short capitate hairs. Sori c. 0.5 mm diam., rounded-reniform, with a few short capitate hairs. Spores irregularly winged.

Distribution

Iron Range NE QLD to SE QLD, N NT and WA. Also widespread in Asia, Malesia and Pacific Islands.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial on creek banks and disturbed sites in rainforest.

Similar species

Similar to *Macrothelypteris polypodioides*, from which it may be distinguished by the presence of slender hairs on the rachis (cf. slender multicellular acicular hairs and narrow ciliate scales in *M. polypodioides*).

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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Close up of frond showing sori.

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Stipe hairs, and crozier. © CSIRO



Habit. © CSIRO

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