

Microsorium australiense

Family:

Polypodiaceae

Botanical name

Microsorium australiense (F.M.Bailey) Bostock

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/178048>

Description

Rhizome short-creeping, dorsiventrally flattened, scaly. Scales ovate to broadly ovate, 2–5.5 mm long, 1–2 mm wide, blackish brown; cells \pm uniform; margins finely dentate; apex long-acuminate, acute. Fronds to 52 cm long, 3–10 mm apart. Stipe obscure, to c. 0.5 cm long. Lamina narrowly elliptic, 9–51 cm long, 0.9–4 cm wide, thin but fleshy, brittle, bright green (sometimes bluish green), tapering to an acute apex; base narrowing gradually into stipe; margins entire or slightly undulate; midrib pale green, prominent; main lateral veins angled at 45°–50° to rachis; remaining venation not obvious. Sori numerous, 0.5–1.5 mm diam., scattered over lower surface of the upper half to two-thirds of frond, not or only very slightly impressed into lamina. Spores 57.5–100 μ m long, 37.5–67.5 μ m wide.

Distribution

Endemic to NE QLD between Mt Finnegan and Paluma Range.

Habit and habitat

A canopy epiphyte in mesic lower- to upper- montane rainforest. Habitat usually differs from the similar *Microsorium punctatum*.

Natural history

May be a polyploid.

Cultivation

As for *Microsorium grossum* but more suited to moister cooler areas.

Similar species

Similar to *Microsorium punctatum*

1a. Plants epiphytic, rhizome short-creeping, dorsiventrally flattened, lamina thin, bright green, <4 cm wide, lateral veins 45-50 degrees to midrib, spores 100 x 67 μ m = *Microsorium australiense*

1b. Plants lithophytic or terrestrial, rhizome medium to long creeping, not dorsi-ventrally flattened, lamina leathery, <11 cm wide, yellow-green lateral veins 60-65 degrees to midrib, spores 70 x 40 μ m = *Microsorium punctatum*

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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