

Oceaniopteris cartilaginea

Family:

Blechnaceae

Botanical name

Oceaniopteris cartilaginea (Sw.) Gasper & Salino

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/8028969>

Common name:

Gristle Fern

Description

Rhizome short-creeping to erect. Sterile and fertile fronds similar, 20–50 (–200) cm long, 4–20 (–34) cm wide. Stipe 8–20 (–70) cm long, brown to stramineous, blackening at base; basal scales subulate, entire, black; scale scars above. Lamina deltoid to ovate, pinnate, with 12–25 (–50) pairs of pinnae; rachis and costae stramineous to brown, glabrous or with sparse scales and hairs; sterile pinnae linear-lanceolate, 2–19 cm long, 6–15 mm wide, acuminate, adnate or semi-adnate throughout with broad bases with margins serrate; basal pinnae similar or longer and deflexed; fertile pinnae similar or slightly narrower. Spores 38 × 28 µm; perine scaberulous; exine smooth to granulose.

Distribution

Endemic to E Australia from Iron Range QLD to Vic.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in rainforest and closed wet sclerophyll forest in a wide variety of situations. This species occurs throughout the forest floor and is not restricted to areas near creeks or soaks.

Natural history

The tropical population is characterised by having an erect rhizome and discontinuous sori.

Cultivation

Readily grown in a wide variety of situations over a broad range of eastern Australia.

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) '*Platynerium superbum*', in Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes. apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platynerium_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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Habit. © G. Sankowsky



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