

# *Oleandra musifolia*

## Family:

Oleandraceae

## Botanical name

*Oleandra musifolia* Blume

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/8029167>

## Description

Rhizome held above substratum by long rigid aerial roots, densely covered with peltate or medifixed elongate red-brown scales with pale margins bearing short or long marginal cilia. Stipes scattered in clusters between long, leafless portions of rhizome, to 18 (–20) mm long, with articulation usually to 6 (rarely to 13) mm from base. Lamina chartaceous, 14–38 (–52) cm long, tapering to base and long-acuminate apex, mostly glabrous or with occasional scattered ciliate scales or simple hairs; margins entire. Sori usually in a regular row along lamina, near proximal ends of veins; indusium reniform, thickened at attachment, with an outer diaphanous portion and (sometimes) marginal cilia.

## Distribution

NE QLD from Windsor Tableland to Eungella. Also in Malesia.

## Habit and habitat

Epiphytic or lithophytic in mesic mid- to upper-montane vine forest. Usually a canopy- or subcanopy-epiphyte and sometimes inhabiting the dying nests of *Drynaria* and *Platyserium*.

## Natural history

This unusual fern is the only epiphytic species in Australia to have stilt roots. It can be readily identified by having widely-spaced strap like fronds with rounded sori placed close to the costa.

## Cultivation

Can be cultivated in a container or in the top of a nest-fern in a moist tropical or subtropical garden. The scrambling nature of this epiphyte make it difficult to contain.

## 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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Habit. © CSIRO



Rhizome. © CSIRO



Rhizome. © G. Sankowsky

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