

Ophioglossum costatum

Family:

Ophioglossaceae

Botanical name

Ophioglossum costatum R.Br.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/115299>

Description

Rhizome erect, globose, bearing numerous, fibrous roots. Fronds erect, 4–25 cm tall; leaf bases not persistent. Common stipe 7–50 mm long. Sterile lamina sessile, ovate, 2.5–9 cm long, 7–25 mm wide, pale green, with a paler median band; base cuneate to truncate; apex acute or obtuse; venation double, except for elongated areoles in median zone; primary areoles with a finer network of secondary ones. Sporophore 1–6 cm long, on a 5–25 cm long stipe.

Distribution

Scattered across tropical WA, NT and QLD. Also widespread across Palaeotropics.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial, usually in shallow soil pockets over rock growing exposed in full sun.

Natural history

This species dies back to an underground tuber each year.

Cultivation

Best grown in a small container of free draining material. Plants seem to benefit from being allowed to dry out in cool weather.

Similar species

Ophioglossum costatum can be identified by the presence of a mid-rib like pale band in the middle of the lamina and by the rounded underground tuber with roots emerging from the top surface.

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).



Habit. © A.R. Field



Close up of frond showing sporophore. © Australian Tropical Herbarium



Habit. © Australian Tropical Herbarium

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