

Ophioglossum lusitanicum

Family:

Ophioglossaceae

Botanical name

Ophioglossum lusitanicum L.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/115416>

Common name:

Adders tongue

Description

Rhizome erect, cylindrical; roots fleshy, spreading; horizontal ones producing vegetative buds often resulting in large colonies. Fronds 1 or 2, 1.5–20 cm tall. Common stipe 5–70 mm long. Sterile lamina 8–35 (–75) mm long, 2–15 mm wide, fleshy, elliptic, ovate to obovate, acute, more rarely obtuse; base rounded to truncate or cuneate and gradually tapering to a common stipe; venation single, usually obscure; areoles variable, as long as wide or elongated. Sporophore 5–120 mm long, on a stipe 5–110 mm long; sterile tip rarely more than 1.5 mm long.

Distribution

Widespread and scattered across coastal and inland Australia. Also widespread in the Palaetropics and Neotropics.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial, usually in shallow soil on rock ledges exposed to full sun.

Cultivation

Readily cultivated in small pots and containers.

Similar species

Ophioglossum lusitanicum is similar to *Ophioglossum reticulatum* but usually has a thicker lamina with obscure venation.

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 sporophore. © M. Fagg, APII



Habit, showing sporophore. © M. Fagg, APII



Habit, showing sporophore. © M. Fagg, APII

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