

Ophioglossum reticulatum

Family:

Ophioglossaceae

Botanical name

Ophioglossum reticulatum L.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/120306>

Description

Rhizome erect, ovoid; roots few, spreading, sometimes producing vegetative buds. Fronds 1 or 2, 4–30 cm tall. Common stipe 2–16 cm long. Sterile lamina variable, 8–105 mm long, 5–50 mm wide, membranous, ovate to round or obovate, obtuse or acute; base broadly acute, truncate to cordate; venation single order of areoles or double (primary areoles with a finer series of secondary areoles within them), without a distinct midrib; areoles variable in shape, as long as wide or distinctly elongate, with few to many free included veinlets. Sporophore 5–60 mm long, on a stipe 3–17 cm long, arising from the lamina base; sterile tips 0.5–1.5 mm long.

Distribution

Scattered across tropical and subtropical Australia. Also widespread in tropical and subtropical areas of the Neotropics and Palaeotropics.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial, usually in shallow soil on rock shelves exposed to full sun but also in a variety of forested and open woodland habitats.

Natural history

The variation present in this widespread and polymorphic species requires further investigation.

Cultivation

As for *O. lusitanicum*.

Similar species

Ophioglossum reticulatum is similar to *Ophioglossum lusitanicum* but usually has a thinner lamina with more obvious 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. © G. Sankowsky



Close up of sporophore. © G. Sankowsky



Habit. © G. Sankowsky

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