

Phlegmariurus creber

Family:

Lycopodiaceae

Botanical name

Phlegmariurus creber (Alderw.) A.R.Field & Bostock

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/51288371>

Common name:

Rat-Tail Tassel-Fern

Description

Epiphytic plants. Branches tufted, pendulous, slender, forked 1–several times, to 120 cm long; sterile portion (including leaves) 2–3 mm diam. Leaves densely spirally arranged, thick, imbricate, appressed or slightly spreading, narrowly triangular, acute, keeled, 3–4 mm long, c. 1.5 mm wide, dark green; margins translucent and minutely irregularly toothed. Transition from sterile to sporogenous zone gradual. Sporophylls ovate-triangular, acuminate, keeled, arranged in 4 rows, imbricate, appressed, 2–3 mm long, 0.5–1 mm wide. Sporangia occupying half or less of the sporophyll length.

Distribution

In Australia restricted to mountaintops in the Wet Tropics, NE QLD. Sparsely distributed on mountaintops in the Pacific and Australia.

Habit and habitat

Epiphytic from upper branches of large emergent rainforest trees in high altitude rainforest.

Similar species

Can be distinguished from other Australian *Phlegmariurus* by having shoots less than 5 mm in diameter.

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).



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