

Phlegmariurus dalhousieanus

Family:

Lycopodiaceae

Botanical name

Phlegmariurus dalhousieanus (Spring) A.R.Field & Bostock

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/242304>

Common name:

Blue Tassel-Fern

Description

Epiphytic or lithophytic plants. Branches tufted, at first erect, becoming pendulous, rarely branched except for sporogenous zone which is often once-forked near apex, 45–120 cm long. Leaves in whorls of 3, crowded, spreading, angled at 45° to axis, thin, firm, lanceolate, attenuate, entire, 15–25 mm long, c. 4 mm wide, rich bluish green. Transition from sterile to sporogenous zone gradual. Sporophylls similar in shape and size to sterile leaves, or as short as 10 mm. Sporangium occupying the lower one-eighth to one-twelfth of the sporophyll length.

Distribution

In Australia restricted to a few sites in the Wet Tropics and on Cape York, NE QLD. Sparsely distributed in specific habitats in Malesia, Polynesia and Australia.

Habit and habitat

Epiphytic from *Platycerium hillii* in complex mesophyll vine forest.

Natural history

Named after Lady Susan Ramsey, Marchioness of Dalhousie who sent the type to Joseph Dalton Hooker.

Cultivation

Extremely difficult to cultivate.

Similar species

Can be distinguished from other Australian *Phlegmariurus* by its large glaucous grey nearly homophyllous shoots.

Citation of Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycopytes

Field AR, Quinn CJ, Zich FA (2022) Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycopytes. apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/intro/index.htm (accessed online INSERT DATE).

Field AR, Quinn CJ, Zich FA (2022) '*Platycerium superbum*', in Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycopytes. apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platycerium_superbum.htm (accessed online INSERT DATE).



Close up of frond. © A.R. Field



Close up of frond, fertile. © A.R. Field



Habit. © A.R. Field

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