

## *Phlegmariurus squarrosus*

**Family:**

Lycopodiaceae

**Botanical name**

*Phlegmariurus squarrosus* (G.Forst.) A.Love & D.Love

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/242312>

**Common name:**

Rock Tassel-Fern, Water Tassel-Fern

**Description**

Epiphytic or lithophytic plants. Branches tufted, pendulous or erect, but arched to nodding distally, undivided or 1–several times branched, 30–75 cm long; sterile portion (including leaves) 1.5–3 cm diam. Leaves subwhorled to spirally arranged, thin, firm, angled at 60–90° to axis, twisted near base, linear-lanceolate, attenuate, entire, 10–20 mm long, 1–2 mm wide, pale green to yellowish green. Transition from sterile to sporogenous zone gradual. Sporogenous zone 10–30 cm long, 7–10 mm diam., undivided or once-forked. Sporophylls linear-lanceolate, whorled, imbricate, subappressed, abruptly contracting above base into a long, attenuated upper portion that is spreading but apically directed, 5–7 mm long, 1.5–2 mm wide. Sporangia occupying one-sixth of the sporophyll length.

**Distribution**

Daintree to Tully in NE QLD. Also widespread but scarce throughout the Palaeotropics.

**Habit and habitat**

A lithophyte or subcanopy epiphyte on riparian trees, usually near watercoourses.

**Cultivation**

Best cultivated in a hanging container of coarse free draining mix or in a nest-fern in a tropical shaded garden or fernery. This species is less tolerant of cool conditions.

**Similar species**

Can be distinguished from other Australian *Phlegmariurus* by bottlebrush like shoots of slender spreading lycophylls and sporophylls.

**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](https://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](https://apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platyserium_superbum.htm) (accessed online INSERT DATE).



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