

## *Pityrogramma calomelanos*

**Family:**

Pteridaceae

**Botanical name**

*Pityrogramma calomelanos* (L.) Link

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/101958>

**Common name:**

Silver Fern, Golden Fern

**Description**

Fronds  $\pm$ erect, dark green, glossy. Stipe 10–50 cm long, with 2 or 4 vascular bundles. Lamina 2-pinnate-pinnatifid, ovate, narrowly ovate, triangular or narrowly triangular, 15–45 cm long, 6–27 cm wide; veins obscure. Sporangia spread uniformly over the fertile segments.

var. *calomelanos*

Rhizome scales with an apical portion of 8–10 uniseriate cells; apical cell conical, eglandular. Stipe 15–50 cm long, with 2 vascular bundles. Lamina usually shorter than the stipe, 15–45 cm long, 6–27 cm wide; abaxial surface with white waxy indumentum, rarely glabrous; lowermost pinnae the largest.

var. *austroamericana*

Rhizome scales with an apical portion of 8–10 uniseriate cells; apical cell spherical, sometimes glandular. Stipe 10–40 cm long, with 2 large and 2 small vascular bundles. Lamina 15–40 cm long, 9–15 cm wide; abaxial surface with golden yellow waxy indumentum; lowermost pinnae c. the same length as, or smaller than, the pair immediately above.

**Distribution**

A South American fern widely naturalised in tropical Australia and other tropical and subtropical places.

**Habit and habitat**

A common weed in cracks of buildings and paving or among rocks. Usually associated with human disturbance, less common in undisturbed areas.

**Natural history**

A widely dispersed weedy fern.

**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).



Close up of frond showing sori.  
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Habit. © Australian Tropical Herbarium

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