

Pronephrium triphyllum

Family:

Thelypteridaceae

Botanical name

Pronephrium triphyllum (Sw.) Holttum

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/108798>

Description

Rhizome long-creeping, c. 2–3 mm diam., covered with short hooked hairs and a few scattered scales; scales thick, dark brown, with scattered hairs on margins and surfaces. Fronds dimorphic, to c. 65 cm long. Stipe of sterile fronds 7–20 cm long; stipe of fertile fronds 20–50 cm long, ±tinged dull red, rather sparsely hairy; hairs as on rhizome. Lamina trifoliate, consisting of terminal pinna and 1 pair of opposite lateral pinnae 5–20 mm below it; terminal pinna 10–18 cm long; when sterile 2.5–4 cm wide; when fertile 1–2.5 cm wide; sterile lateral pinnae short-stalked, 5–10 cm long, 1.5–3 cm wide; fertile lateral pinnae similar to sterile but 1–2.5 cm wide; costules of terminal pinna 4–4.5 mm apart; veins 10–12 pairs at a very obtuse angle to costule, almost all anastomosing; veinlets often free, excurrent; lower surface of costae and veins bearing hooked hairs. Sori running almost the entire length of the veins, exindusiate; sporangia with short, hooked hairs near the annulus and often a 2-celled hair on the stalk.

Distribution

Wet Tropics of NE QLD from Endeavour River to Tully River. Also in Malasia and Pacific Islands.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in mesic lowland to mid-montane vine forest on a variety of geologies.

Cultivation

Readily cultivated in a container of free draining mix in a moist shaded tropical garden or fernery.

Similar species

Pronephrium asperum and *Pronephrium triphyllum*

Key to Australian *Pronephrium* spp.:

1a. Fronds trifoliate, lateral pinnae smaller than terminal pinna, pinna margins entire = *Pronephrium triphyllum*

1b. Fronds with more than three pinnae, lateral pinnae similar in size to terminal pinnae, pinna margins crenate = *Pronephrium asperum*

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 frond showing sori.

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Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Habit. © G. Sankowsky

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