

Psilotum complanatum

Family:

Psilotaceae

Botanical name

Psilotum complanatum Sw.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/88065>

Description

Epiphytic plants. Rhizome branching, creeping. Aerial shoots firm to flaccid or pendulous, branched repeatedly in one plane in the upper part, 15–110 cm long. Branches flattened, 2–4 mm wide; margins slightly thickened; stomata covering both surfaces. Sterile leaves alternate along the margins, c. 1 mm long, appressed, subterete, pale yellow-green, translucent towards the tips. Synangia 1.5–2.5 mm long and wide.

Distribution

Widespread in the tropics and subtropics. In NE QLD most commonly seen in Cape York Peninsula and NE QLD lowland rainforests.

Habit and habitat

Epiphytic or occasionally lithophytic in vine forest. Usually seen growing from *Platyserium* and *Asplenium* clumps in lowland to low-montane mesic complex mesophyll vine forest.

Natural history

This species is less common than *Psilotum nudum*. The pendant branches usually emerge directly from the bottom of its host epiphyte.

Cultivation

It can be cultivated in a hanging basket or pot of coarse free-draining material but grows better planted directly into a nest-fern. It takes a long time to establish and is slow growing.

Similar species

Psilotum nudum has more or less terete ultimate forks whereas *Psilotum companatum* has flattened ultimate forks.

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).



Habit. © A.R. Field



Close up of frond showing synangia. © CSIRO

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