

Pyrrrosia confluens

Family:

Polypodiaceae

Botanical name

Pyrrrosia confluens (R.Br.) Ching

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/75385>

Common name:

Confluent Felt Fern

Description

Rhizome long-creeping, branched, 1–2 mm diam. Scales ovate to narrowly ovate, appressed, brown to greyish brown; margins pale, fringed with hairs which abrade with age; apices long, ± acute. Fronds simple, ± dimorphic. Stipes to 6 cm long, scattered. Lamina ovate, narrowly obovate to spatulate or narrowly elliptic to linear, (2–) 6–24 (–35) cm long, 0.5–2 cm wide, ± coriaceous, often thick, brittle, mid- to dark green, usually hairy above, paler and more densely hairy below, appearing silver, fawn or rust-coloured; base narrowly or broadly cuneate; margins entire to slightly undulate, sometimes inrolled; apex truncate, emarginate, or gradually tapering and rounded; midrib prominent on lower surface. Hydathodes often visible as small oval white deposits, marginal or abaxially submarginal. Sori 1.5–5 mm wide, usually occupying only apical part of frond, more rarely to about half-way down, fused into 2 oblong or elliptic patches, 1 on each side of midrib, or forming 2 rows of discrete or partly fused sori. Spores ± strongly bisulcate.

Distribution

From Windsor Tableland in NE QLD to NSW. Also Pacific Islands.

Habit and habitat

Epiphytic or lithophytic in mid to upper montane mesic vine forest. In tropical areas this is usually an upper montane species.

Natural history

A drought tolerant species expressing CAM photosynthesis.

Cultivation

Easily cultivated in a pot, slab or on a tree in a moist tropical or subtropical garden.

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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Habit. © G. Sankowsky



Habit. © G. Sankowsky



Rhizome. © G. Sankowsky

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