

Salvinia x molesta

Family:

Salviniaceae

Botanical name

Salvinia x molesta D.S.Mitch.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/60722>

Description

Plants 5–20 cm long, often forming thick mats; rhizome to 1.2 mm thick. Foliar leaves simple, shortly petiolate, elliptical, obovate or ±round, often deeply cordate at base, 7–30 (–40) mm long, 7–20 (–25) mm wide, pale green to greenish-brown, frequently overlapping and folded along midrib; margins slightly darker, entire, often incurved; apex obtuse, notched; upper surface with elongate papillae; each papilla with 4 stiff, green hairs, incurved and connate at the tips. Submerged leaf 1–20 (–30) cm long, with brown, appressed hairs. Plants heterosporous but usually sterile; sporogenous plants with numerous, spherical or ovoid, minutely hairy, 2–3 mm long microsporocarps in 2 rows along lobes of submerged leaf and 2–3 megasporocarps at the base of fertile leaf segments. Spores, when produced, deformed and not viable.



Frond. © APII



Habit. © APII

Distribution

Introduced from the Neotropics and widespread in tropical and subtropical Australia. Usually in man-made waterbodies.

Habit and habitat

Aquatic, usually in man-made, slow-moving water-bodies.

Natural history

This species was relatively recently discovered and is thought to be of hybrid origin. Commonly reproduces vegetatively, sporocarps may be formed but the spores are deformed. Probably sterile.

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).

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