

Selaginella australiensis

Family:

Selaginellaceae

Botanical name

Selaginella australiensis Baker

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/75860>

Description

Stems slender, wide-creeping, repeatedly branched, rooting at dichotomies; branches low, ascending or procumbent. Median leaves narrowly ovate, to c. 2 mm long, keeled; base symmetrical, cordate, oblique; margins finely toothed; apex attenuate, acute and recurved. Lateral leaves sessile, oblong to oblong-ovate, c. 2.5 mm long, 1 mm wide, dark green, more widely spaced below, contiguous or overlapping above, dimidiate; margins usually dentate-ciliate on rounded acroscopic base and often finely dentate towards apex, otherwise entire; apex abruptly narrowed, obtuse. Spikes to 8 cm long, 1–1.5 mm wide, usually erect, terminal on ultimate branches; sporophylls homophyllous, similar to median leaves, overlapping. Megaspores 650–750 µm diam., faintly reticulate. Microspores 27–35 µm diam., rugose.

Distribution

Endemic to NE QLD and E QLD.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial, usually near creeks or rock formations in rainforest.

Cultivation

Easily grown on the floor of a tropical or subtropical fernery.

Similar species

Identified from other creeping species by its long erect strobili. The lateral leaves are all of the same length and perpendicular to the stem, even on young shoots.

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 spike.

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