# Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes - Online edition

# Sphaeropteris felina

Family: Cyatheaceae

#### Botanical name

Sphaeropteris felina (Roxb.) Pic.Serm.

Link to Australian Plant Name Index for publication details and synonyms: https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/119202

## Description

Rhizome erect to 8 m tall, to c. 20 cm diam. Stipe to 1 m long; basal scales similar in structure to those of *C. cooperi* but usually paler. Lamina c. 3 m long; largest pinnae to 75 cm long; basal pinnae only slightly reduced; pinnules to 12 cm long, to c. 2.5 cm wide, lobed almost to costae, with 1 or 2 basal lobes often free; lobes strongly crenate; veins to 15 pairs; costal scales pale, small, with short marginal hairs; costular scales whitish, bullate; upper surface of costules and veins with scattered thick whitish hairs; similar hairs on margins of pinnule lobes. Sori near costules, exindusiate, with narrow ciliate scales around receptacle base; paraphyses slender, slightly longer than sporangia.

#### Distribution

Occurs in Cape York Peninsula QLD between Lockerbie Scrub and the McIlwraith Range. Also in Papua New Guinea.

#### Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in rainforest, especially feather-palm and fan-palm swamp forest at low altitudes.

#### Natural history

This is a rare and localised tree-fern.

### Similar species

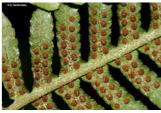
Alsophila exilis is distinguished by its shorter stipe (c. 20 cm long cf. to 1 m in Sphaeropteris felina) and distinctly reduced basal pinnae (cf. only slightly reduced in Sphaeropteris felina).

#### Citation of Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes

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Field AR, Quinn CJ, Zich FA (2022) 'Platycerium superbum', in Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes. apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platycerium\_superbum.htm (accessed online INSERT DATE).

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Close up of frond showing sori. © G. Sankowsky



Close up of frond showing sori.
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Close up of frond showing upper (adaxial) surface of frond. © G.
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Stipe scales and crozier. © CSIRO



















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