

## *Sticherus flabellatus*

### Family:

Gleicheniaceae

### Botanical name

*Sticherus flabellatus* (R.Br.) H.St.John

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/65521>

### Description

Rhizome 2–7 mm diam., sparsely to prominently tuberculate, initially bearing dark brown ciliate scales. Frond of 1–3 tiers of opposite primary branches which in turn are divided 2–3 times; leaflets of first fork simple or rarely pinnately lobed, often absent; dormant buds obvious. Stipe 7–95 cm long, glabrous except for persistent basal scales; rachis glabrous above; slender scales with long cilia below, mostly deciduous although persistent along margins. Ultimate segments linear, toothed along margins at least towards apex, angled at 45–50° to axis, glabrous above, glabrous below or with simple or branched white to brown hairs and slender ciliate scales, rarely pale green. Sori of 3–8 sporangia, lacking paraphyses, half-way between margin and midrib; sporangia stramineous to brown, 0.2–0.4 mm diam.

var. *flabellatus*

Ultimate segments 20–45 mm long, 2–3.5 mm wide; margins toothed in distal half or nearly to base; undersurface green to slightly glaucous; sporangia c. 0.4 mm diam.

var. *compactus*

Ultimate segments 6–15 (–20) mm long, 1–2 mm wide; margins toothed in distal half or only near apex; undersurface moderately to very glaucous, rarely green; sporangia 0.2–0.3 mm diam.

### Distribution

Occurs in Arnhem Land NT and from Torres Strait QLD to central coastal NSW. Also in Malesia and the Pacific Islands.

### Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in mesic vine forest, wet sclerophyll forest and open woodland in a wide variety of situations. Usually occurs in or near creeks or on wet banks on rainforest margins.

### 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](https://apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/intro/index.htm) (accessed online INSERT DATE).

Field AR, Quinn CJ, Zich FA (2022) '*Platynerium superbum*', in Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes. [apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platynerium\\_superbum.htm](https://apps.lucidcentral.org/fern/text/entities/platynerium_superbum.htm) (accessed online INSERT DATE).



Close up of frond showing sori.

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Close up of frond showing sori.

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Crozier. © G. Sankowsky



Close up of frond showing upper (adaxial) surface. © G.

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Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Habit. © CSIRO



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