

Tectaria brachiata

Family:

Tectariaceae

Botanical name

Tectaria brachiata (Zoll. & Moritzi) C.V.Morton

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/83054>

Description

Rhizome short, suberect; scales to 5 mm long, medium brown, irregularly fringed with slender hairs when young. Fronds strongly dimorphic. Sterile frond with a stipe to 20 cm long, pale castaneous, scaly near the base only, short-hairy distally. Sterile lamina to 25 cm long; pinnae to 3 pairs; basal pinnae to 15 cm long; largest bearing 1 pair of entire basal pinnules; remainder of pinnae deeply lobed near their bases only; suprabasal pinnae shallowly lobed to subentire, with rounded to subcordate base; apical lamina deltoid, with few broad entire lobes; both surfaces minutely hairy on costae and main veins; marginal hairs on upper surface very few and short; veins richly anastomosing, with many free branched veinlets in areoles; veinlets sometimes branched. Fertile frond with a stipe to 50 cm long. Fertile lamina similar to that of sterile frond, but all parts much contracted; basal pinnae to 10 cm long. Sori on free veinlets in areoles, impressed into lamina; indusium large, thin.

Distribution

Occurs on Cape York QLD from Heathlands to Cooktown. Also in Asia and Malesia.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in alluvial soil, earth banks and rocky areas usually in rainforest or palm swamp forest.

Cultivation

Readily cultivated in a greenhouse or garden in a tropical climate. Grows well in a container or tub of moist free draining growing medium.

Similar species

Tectaria confluens and *Tectaria devexa*

1a. Free included veinlets absent in costal areoles = *T. devexa*

1b. Free included veinlets present in costal areoles = 2

2a. Fronds not strongly dimorphic, usually with only one pair of pinnae dissected to midrib = *T. confluens*

2b. Fronds strongly dimorphic, those of mature plants with 2 or more pairs of pinnae = 3

3a. Supramedial pinnae of fertile fronds lobed = *T. brachiata*

3b. Supramedial pinnae of fertile fronds entire or nearly so = *T. siifolia*.

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) '*Platynerium superbum*', in Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes. 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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Close up of frond showing upper

(adaxial) surface. © CSIRO



Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Habit. © CSIRO





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