## Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes - Online edition

# Tectaria siifolia

Family:

Tectariaceae

#### Botanical name

Tectaria siifolia (Willd.) Copel.

Link to Australian Plant Name Index for publication details and synonyms: https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/116615

## Description

Rhizome short-creeping, scaly; scales narrowly triangular, 3–5 mm long, purplish-brown with margins pale and deciduous-hairy. Fronds dimorphic. Stipe 20–30 cm long, longer in fertile fronds; basal scales like those of the rhizome; suprabasal scales scattered, pale brown. Lamina 15–23 cm long with 1–3 pairs of pinnae; basal pinnae to 20 cm long, 5 cm wide, with a basal basiscopic lobe to 15 cm long and 3.5 cm wide; suprabasal pinnae entire, acuminate, to 18 cm long and 4 cm wide; venation reticulate; areoles containing free branched veinlets; lower surface minutely and sparsely hairy on costae and main veins; upper surface glabrous except on the rachis and bases of costae. Fertile lamina much smaller in all parts; venation forming fewer areoles with few included veinlets. Sori rather irregular, large when mature, in 1 row on each side of the lateral veins in pinnae, on connected veins (not on the free veinlets); adjacent sori near costae sometimes confluent; indusium very small, only on immature sori.

#### Distribution

Known from two populations in Australia, one on Cape York QLD and one in Arnhem Land NT. Also in Asia and Malesia.

## Habit and habitat

Terrestrial in dense lowland rainforest, usually in riparian areas.

## 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 brachiata and Tectaria confluens.

- 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.

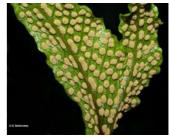
## Citation of Australian Tropical Ferns and Lycophytes

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



Close up of frond showing sori.
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Close up of frond showing sori. © G. Sankowsky



Frond. © G. Sankowsky



Habit. © CSIRO

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