

Tmesipteris truncata

Family:

Psilotaceae

Botanical name

Tmesipteris truncata (R.Br.) Desv.

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

<https://id.biodiversity.org.au/name/apni/97022>

Description

Epiphytic or terrestrial plants. Aerial shoots pendulous or suberect, unbranched, 6–39 cm long, growing for one or a number of seasons and terminating in a small or large sterile or rarely sporogenous leaf; lower portion of shoot below leaves ribbed on all sides. Leaves spirally arranged, 2–4 per cm, 8–35 mm long, 1.5–5 mm wide in distal half, tapering to base; upper surface very shiny; lower surface dull; margins parallel; apex truncate or more rarely obtuse, mucronate. Synangia in upper half of shoot biconic, abruptly tapering or obtuse, persistent, 3.5–5.5 mm long; length 2–3 times height.

Distribution

NE QLD to SE NSW. Also widespread in the Pacific.

Habit and habitat

Terrestrial, epiphytic or lithophytic in rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest. Commonly grows from the trunks of various tree ferns.

Cultivation

Rarely cultivated as they are difficult to grow.

Similar species

Key to tropical Australian *Tmesipteris* spp.:

1a. Synangium lobes pointed = *Tmesipteris truncata*

1b. Synangium lobes rounded = 2

2a. Leaves concolourous, shiny on both surfaces = *Tmesipteris ovata*

2b. Leaves discolourous, shiny on upper surface, dull on lower surface = *Tmesipteris lanceolata*

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).



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Fronde. © G. Sankowsky



Close up of frond showing synangia. © G. Sankowsky

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