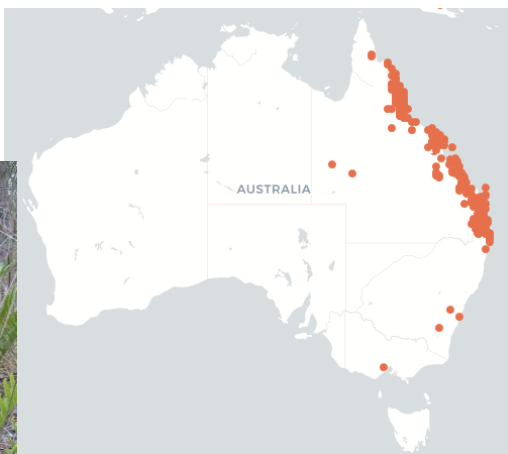


Polypodiaceae
Drynaria rigidula
basket fern

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ETYMOLOGY

(Dri-na-ri-a) Greek dryas = a wood nymph or dryad = whom the oak was sacred; sterile fronds of these ferns resemble oak leaves; The species rigidulus (rih-JID-yoo-lah) moderately to slightly rigid;

LIFEFORM

Fern 1.5 m

STATUS

Very common in rocky areas; Widely distributed tropical to temperate fern;

OCCURS

Sunshine Coast to Cooktown Q to NE NSW (NG, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia,

HABITAT

Rocky mountainous to hillslopes in Dry rainforests and Open forests

TOLERANCES

Full sun, Drought tolerant but frost tender. Very hardy in dry frost-free areas; requires strong light;

LEAVES

Fronds, 12-36 x 6-8 cm, long and narrow, slightly lobed to pinnatifid; Two distinctly different fronds, large, leathery on short winged stalks, tip pointed, base wedge-shaped, edges with teeth 10-30 x 6-8 cm, short oval;

FERTILE

Pinnae of fertile frond stalked, not decurrent on rhachis;

SORI

One sorus between each pair of sori in single row either side of midrib on underside of leaf, but visible as rounded bumps on upper surface; Sori in regular rows on either side of the midvein of the pinnae.

ROOTS

Reddish brown fleshy scaly climbing rhizomes; Long creeping rootstock is thick fleshy bearing stiff spreading scales;

STEM

Creeping or clump-forming species

ETHNOBOTANY

Garden fern of pots, baskets, rocks or tree-fern trunk.

INDIGENOUS USES

Juice from fronds used in treatment of haemorrhoids. In Malaysia used to treat venereal diseases,

ID FEATURE

Deciduous during drought. Two distinctly different fronds; Segments fused along their base;