



# Flora of Australia

## *Asplenium nidus* L.

Author: P.J. Brownsey

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<https://profiles.ala.org.au/opus/foa/profile/Asplenium%20nidus> [Date Accessed: 30 July 2020]

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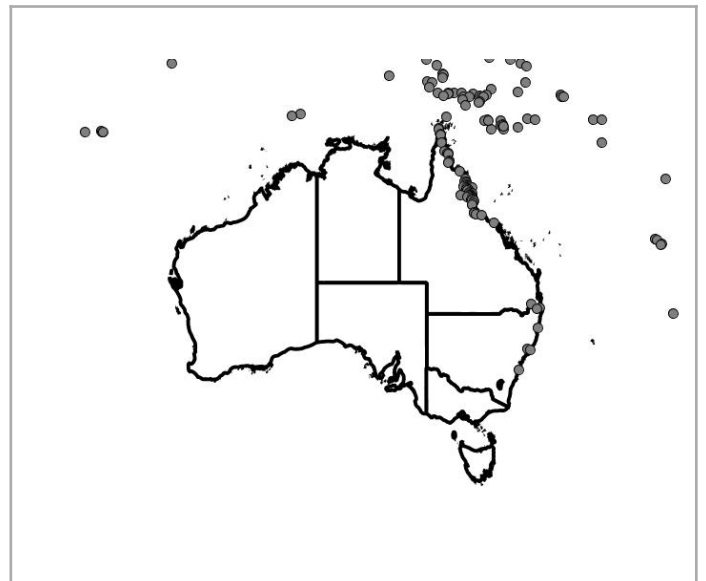
## ***Asplenium nidus* L.**

- Brownsey, P.J. in McCarthy, P.M. (ed.) (1998), Aspleniaceae. *Flora of Australia* 48

P.J. Brownsey

Ferns with nest-like habit. Rhizome erect, scaly, unbranched with a single growing point. Fronds spreading horizontally before arising in a regular rosette. Stipe indistinct, 1-5 cm long, 5-8 mm wide. Rachis in cross-section prominent and often 2-angled on upper surface, flat or only slightly keeled below. Lamina narrowly obovate, simple, 90-125 cm long, 8.5-15 cm wide, shiny green and  $\pm$ glabrous; bases narrowly cuneate; margins entire; apices acute; veins free except for a marginal connection. Sori very numerous, close together; longest sori 18-40 mm long, extending from midrib, usually occupying less than half width of lamina. Perisporos pale with fimbriate broad ridges and fenestrate lacunae; exospores  $42.9-47.8 \times 28.3-32.2 \mu\text{m}$  (means).

*Distribution:* Occurs in north-eastern Qld from the Cape York south to Tully; also Christmas Is. and widespread from East Africa through India, Sri Lanka, SE Asia, Malesia and the Pacific to Tahiti and Hawai'i.



*Common Name:* Bird's Nest Fern.

*Habitat:* Epiphytic on tree trunks or on rocks in rainforest, producing a nest-like growth form.

*Representative Herbarium Specimens:* Qld: Shiptons Flat, L.J. Brass 20259 (BRI, CANB).

**Notes:** *Var. multilobum* appears to be no more than a monstrous form. In the absence of an authentic type specimen it is uncertain whether the taxon should be referred to *A. nidus* or *A. australasicum*.

**Illustrations:** D.L. Jones & S.C. Clemesha, *Austral. Ferns & Fern Allies* 2nd edn, 87, fig. 74 (1981); S.B. Andrews, *Ferns Queensland* 54, fig. 4.3C (1990); J. Claussen, *Native Plants of Christmas Island* 104 (2005).

**Bibliography:** Claussen, J. (2005). *Native Plants of Christmas Island. Flora of Australia Supplementary Series No. 22.* (Australian Biological Resources Study: Canberra / Christmas Island Natural History Association).

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**Source:** Data derived from *Flora of Australia* Volume 48 (1998), a product of ABRS, ©Commonwealth of Australia

## Conservation Status

QLD - Least concern

## Nomenclature

Brownsey, P.J. in McCarthy, P.M. (ed.) (1998), Aspleniaceae. *Flora of Australia* 48 : 303-304, Fig. 111, Map 278

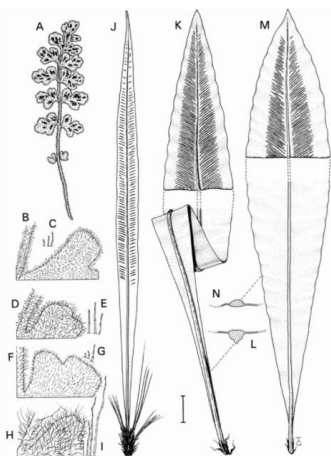
nomenclatural synonym: *Neottopteris vulgaris* J.Sm.: 303

nomenclatural synonym: *Neottopteris nidus* (L.) Hook.: 303

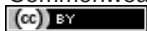
nomenclatural synonym: *Thamnopteris nidus* (L.) C.Presl: 303

doubtful taxonomic synonym: *Asplenium nidus* var. *multilobum* F.M.Bailey: 303

## Images



**Fig. 1:** '*Asplenium nidus*' by T.Galloway. (© Commonwealth of Australia)



**Fig. 2:** '*Asplenium nidus*' by Green, C. (© Director of National Parks)





