

Dicranopteris linearis (Burm.f.) Underw.

This rhizomatous climbing fern spreads via cloning, spreading along the ground and climbing on other vegetation, often forming thickets 3 metres deep or more. The stem grows from the rhizome, branches at a 45° angle, and forms fronds that continue to bud and branch. The ultimate segments of the leaves are linear in shape. The undersides are hairy and sometimes waxy. It can also reproduce via spores.

The fern grows easily on poorly drained, nutrient-poor soils and in disturbed habitats and steep slopes. As a pioneer species in ecological succession, it can colonize bare sites such as lava flows, talus, and abandoned roads. When the fern grows onto a new site it produces layers of stems and leaves repeatedly until there is a network of vegetation.



IUCN Status
Least concern



Native to
Tropical Africa, Tropical Asia



Geo. Distribution
Tropics & Subtropics

