

Microlepia speluncae (L.)

Terrestrial fern in rainforest and on rainforest margins, riverbanks and on alluvial flats.

Rhizome short-creeping, fleshy, with stipes arising in 2 rows. Stipe and rachis chestnut-brown, almost glabrous at base, becoming densely covered in non-glandular hairs at apex. Lamina 40–175 cm long, 25–120 cm wide, broadly ovate, 3-pinnate at base, with soft dense colourless or brown-tinged hairs on all surfaces, but more abundant towards apex. Primary pinnae in 25–40 pairs, stalked, arising at narrow angles. Secondary pinnae arising at wide angles, with winged midribs. Longest tertiary pinnae divided part-way to midrib; lowest pair unequal in size and angle of attachment. Ultimate pinnules broad, oblong, obtuse. Sori submarginal, with paraphyses, protected by half-cup-shaped indusia. Spores pale, finely echinate or \pm smooth.



Native to

Andaman Is., Assam,
Bangladesh, Africa, S. America



Geo. Distribution

Tropics & Subtropics

