

# Actiniopteris radiata (Koenig ex Sw.) Link.

This fern (*Actiniopteris* = 'ray fern') is found in hot, dry habitats, growing at the base of rocks and in crevices, but also on deep soil in shady places. It is common in deciduous woodland with perennially high temperatures and low rainfall, ranging from 500m to 1300m. The distinctive fronds issue from a prostrate rhizome and are somewhat dimorphic. The laminae are 15-45mm long and fan-shaped with a spread of some 180 degrees, the tip of each segment bearing 2–5 teeth.

It is an Ayurvedic herb used for the treatment of skin diseases, fever, diarrhea, intestinal worms and diabetes.

In 1992 Botswana issued a postage stamp depicting this species.



## Native to

Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan, Nepal



## Geo. Distribution

Africa and adjacent islands, Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Burma and Australia

