

Microlepia speluncae (L.) Moore

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; stipe 25–90 cm long, 2–8 mm diam. 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, longest 16–70 cm long, 6–17 cm wide, arising at narrow angles. Sori submarginal, with paraphyses, protected by half-cup-shaped indusia. Spores pale, finely echinate or ±smooth.

In Papua New Guinea, used as a green vegetable. In the Nicobar Islands the crushed leaves are applied on the skin as febrifuge.



Native to
Asia, Pacific



Geo. Distribution
Pantropical - in Africa,
Australia and tropical
America.

