

# Azolla pinnata R.Br.

*A. pinnata* is small, 1.5-2.5 cm long, with a +/- straight main axis with pinnately arranged side branches, progressively longer towards the base, thus roughly triangular in shape; the basal branches themselves becoming pinnate and eventually fragmenting as the main axis decomposes to form new plants. Roots have fine lateral rootlets, giving a feathery appearance in the water. Leaves minute, 1-2 mm long, overlapping in two ranks, upper lobe green, brownish green or reddish, lower lobe translucent brown; minute, short, pillae, +/- cylindrical unicellular hairs often present on the upper lobes. When fertile, round sporocarps 1-1.5 mm wide can be seen on the under side at the bases of the side branches. The leaves often have a maroon-red tinge and the water can appear to be covered by red velvet from the distance.



**IUCN Status**  
Least concern



**Native to**  
Africa



**Geo. Distribution**  
Africa, Asia, Australia

