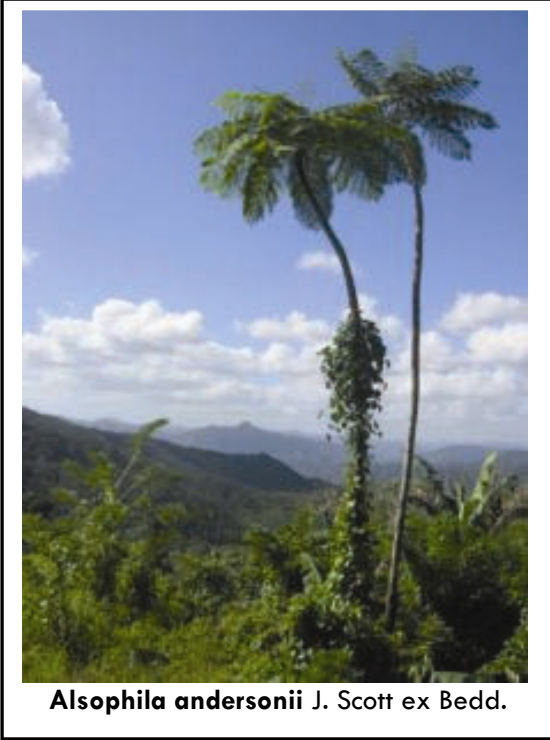


## CYATHEACEAE

**Alsophila andersonii** J. Scott ex Bedd. [= *Cyathea andersonii* (J. Scott ex Bedd.) Copel.; *Gymnosphaera andersonii* (J. Scott ex Bedd.) Ching & S.K. Wu]

*Common English name* : Tree fern.

*Distribution* : INDIA: West Bengal (Darjeeling), Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya; CHINA and BHUTAN.



*Habitat* : Grow along streamside at altitudes ranging from 300-1200 m.

*Population status/Cause for RET*: Vulnerable. Destruction of habitat may result in extinction.

*Description* : Tree fern, 1.5-5 m tall. Fronds bipinnate, muricate, asperous; main rachis sometimes flushed glabrescent. Pinnnae up to 75 cm long, pinna rachis bearing deciduous scales. Mature pinnules 12-15 × 2.5-3.2 cm, basal basioscopic segment almost free, a few adnate to costa, most pinnules deeply lobed 1-1.5 mm from costa, costules 5-6 mm apart, veins 10-12, rarely 14-pairs, simple or forked, lamina segments herbaceous, thin, crenate, subfalcate, apex bluntly pointed or rounded. Sori exundusiate along costule, paraphyses pale, slender, usually longer than sporangia at age, lower surface densely clothed with hairs mixed with smaller scales; hairs also present on the upper surface.

*References* :

Jain, S.K. & R.R. Rao (1983). An Assessment of Threatened plants of India. P. 331.

Mudgal, V. & P.K. Hajra (1997). Floristic Diversity and Conservation Strategies in India. Vol. 1, p. 409.