

## CYATHEACEAE

***Alsophila costularis* Baker [= *Cyathea chinensis* Copel.]**



***Alsophila costularis* Baker**  
Photo Courtesy: B.S. Kholia

*Common English name* : Tree fern.

*Distribution* : INDIA: Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram (Lushai Hills) and Meghalaya (Khasia Hills); CHINA; NEPAL; BHUTAN; MYANMAR; THAILAND and VIETNAM.

*Habitat* : Grows at altitudes between 900 and 2300 m and also along forest fringes in open places and water channels.

*Population status* : Least Concern.

*Description* : Tree fern, 1.8-7.5 m tall with loose crown; trunk covered with thick black root fibres; rhizomes densely scaly, scales 2.2-5 × 1-1.5 mm, dark brown. Stipes dark purple or stramineous-brown, smooth to warty or spinose to warty at base, warty to muricate above; pinnae rachis and costae clothed with crisp dark brown hairs on upper surface, pinnae 50-75 × 10-20 cm, pinnules 8-11 × 1.5-2 cm, deeply lobed; costules 3-4.5 mm apart; veins 7-10 pairs, usually forked. Sori yellow, round, raspberry like and naked, indusiate near costules; indusium attached only on side adjacent to costules, reflexed on maturity with abraded edge backing the costule; paraphyses shorter than sporangia; costules hairy throughout except near apex of pinnule on the lower surface.