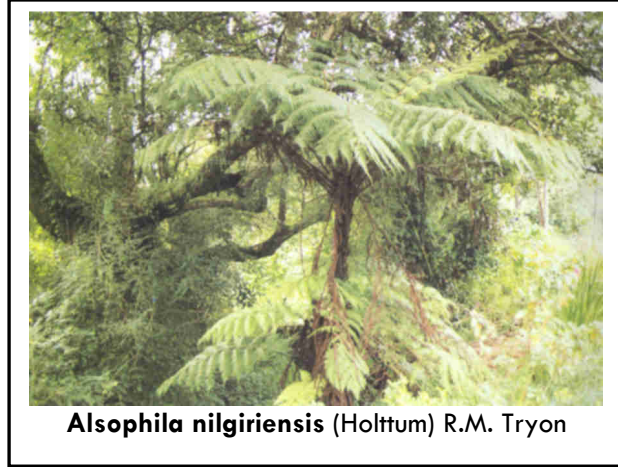


CYATHEACEAE

Alsophila nilgiriensis (Holttum) R.M. Tryon [= *Cyathea nilgiriensis* Holttum]

Common English name : Tree fern.

Distribution : INDIA: Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Endemic.



Alsophila nilgiriensis (Holttum) R.M. Tryon

Habitat : In mountainous regions along water channels.

Population status/Cause for RET : Vulnerable.

Description : Tree fern ca 5 m tall. Stipes up to 40 cm long, dark purple, spinulose, spines 1-3 m long, scales glossy brown, 10-15 × 1-2 mm, margins fragile, rachis stramineous brown, verrucose with very short spines. Pinnae 50-75 cm long; middle pinnules 10-12 × 2-2.5 cm, deeply lobed near costa; costules 3-5 mm apart, thin, hairy on lower surface; bullate scales abundant on vegetative pinnules on lower surface; veins 10-13 pairs, furcate, margins crenate-serrate. Sori indusiate; indusium membranaceous, persistent at base; paraphyses shorter than sporangia.

References :

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