

## CYATHEACEAE

**Sphaeropteris albosetacea** (Bedd.) R.M. Tryon [= *Alsophila albosetacea* Bedd.; *Cyathea albosetacea* (Bedd.) Copel.]

Common English name : Tree fern.

Distribution : INDIA: Nicobar Islands. Endemic.



*Habitat* : In Pandanus forest in rocky clay to sandy loam.

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

*Description* : Gregarious tree fern, 5-10 m high; trunk 15-20 cm in diam. Fronds 2.5-5 m long; stipes stramineous brown, warty to spinulose; spines thick, 1-3 mm long, scattered with scales, glabrous with age. Scales 5-10 × 1-2 mm, setiferous; pinnae up to 1 m long; pinnae-rachis warty to spinulose, clothed with multicellular hairs and narrow shining scales, dark brown. Pinnules sessile, 10-15 × 2-2.5 cm, deeply lobed up to costa; basal segments almost free; costules 5-7 mm apart; veins 9-10 pairs, forked, olive green, crenate at margin. Sori along costules up to 2/3 portion; small bullate scales abundant on costules, multicellular hairs on lower surface of costae.

### References :

- Jain, S.K. & R.R. Rao (1983). An Assessment of Threatened plants of India. P. 331.  
Walter, K.S. & H.J. Gillett (1998). 1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants. P. 5.