

## CYATHEACEAE

**Sphaeropteris brunoniana** (Wall. ex Hook.) R.M. Tryon [= *Alsophila brunoniana* Wall. ex Hook.; *Cyathea brunoniana* (Wall. ex Hook.) Clarke & Baker; *Sphaeropteris holttumiana* (R.R. Rao & Jamir) R.D. Dixit; *Cyathea holttumiana* R.R. Rao & Jamir]



**Sphaeropteris brunoniana** (Wall. ex Hook.)  
R.M. Tryon  
Photo Courtesy: B.S. Kholia

*Common English name* : Tree fern.

*Vernacular names*: Lep.: Paseu, Pashien; Nep.: Pakpa, Unyo.

*Distribution* : INDIA: West Bengal (Darjeeling, Kalimpong), Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya (Khasia hills); CHINA; BANGLADESH; MYANMAR and VIETNAM.

*Habitat* : On moist hill slopes in forests, along forest fringes in open places and along water channels.

*Population status/Cause for RET* : Vulnerable.

*Description* : Tree fern, 1.8-6 m tall with loose crown; stem soft with loosely attached fibres and leaf bases. Stipes purple or creamy to light pale brown, densely covered by woolly tomentum when young; stipe rachis smooth to warty; pinna-rachis stramineous, muricate to wavy, pinna ca 70 cm long; pinnules 8-15 x 2-2.5 cm, deeply lobed, lower 1 or 2 segments almost free; costules 3.5-5 mm apart; veins 10-13 pairs, forked; lower surface glaucous green, margins entire or undulate. Sori large, pale brown, round, exindusiate; fertile segments narrower than the sterile ones, paraphyses many, narrow scales around sorus.

*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.