

CYATHEACEAE

Sphaeropteris nicobarica (N.P. Balakr. ex R.D. Dixit) R.D. Dixit [= *Cyathea nicobarica* N.P. Balakr. ex R.D. Dixit]



Sphaeropteris nicobarica (N.P. Balakr. ex R.D. Dixit)
R.D. Dixit

Photo Courtesy: C. Murugan

Common English name : Tree fern.

Distribution : INDIA: Nicobar Islands. Endemic.

Habitat : Along cliffs in island hill forests on rocky loam.

Population status/Cause for RET : Vulnerable.

Description : Tree fern, ca 2.3 m high. Fronds 1-2 m long; stipes dark chestnut coloured, spinulose; spines 1-3 mm long, densely clothed with long spreading hairs and scales; scales 5-15 × 3-5 mm, pale brown; hairs light brown, 5-10 mm long; rachis stramineous to chestnut coloured. Pinnae 20-30 × 10-15 cm; pinnules 4-10 × 1.5-2.5 cm, lowest deeply lobed; costules 4-5 mm apart; bullate scales and simple hairs present on both surfaces, veins 5-6 pairs, forked, rarely simple.

Reference :

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