

Drynaria rigidula

(Polypodiaceae)

- Common name:** Basket fern.
- Localities:** Brisbane River Bank, Kholo Creek and widespread through our area.
- Growth form:** A large, fern with a creeping, densely scaly rhizome, about 1 cm thick.
- Foliage:** Leaves are of two types; sterile "nest" leaves are 10-36 cm long and lobed, whereas the fertile "foliage" leaves, which produce the spores, are pinnate and up to 150 cm long, with a petiole 15-40 cm long. The pinnae are strap-shaped and papery.
- Flowers and fruit:** Nil.
- Habitat:** Mostly a species of open eucalypt forest, often growing on rocky outcrops, sometimes epiphytic.
- Propagation and Management:** May be propagated by division or from spores germinated in a humid atmosphere.
- General:** A hardy plant in the garden. Several cultivars, with different shaped or divided pinnae, have been selected from this species.

*Drynaria
rigidula*

