
Lygodium flexuosum

Nomenclature:

Family: Schizaeaceae

Species: *Lygodium flexuosum* (L.) Sw.

Synonyms:

Ophioglossum flexuosum L.

Hydroglossum flexuosum (L.) Willd.

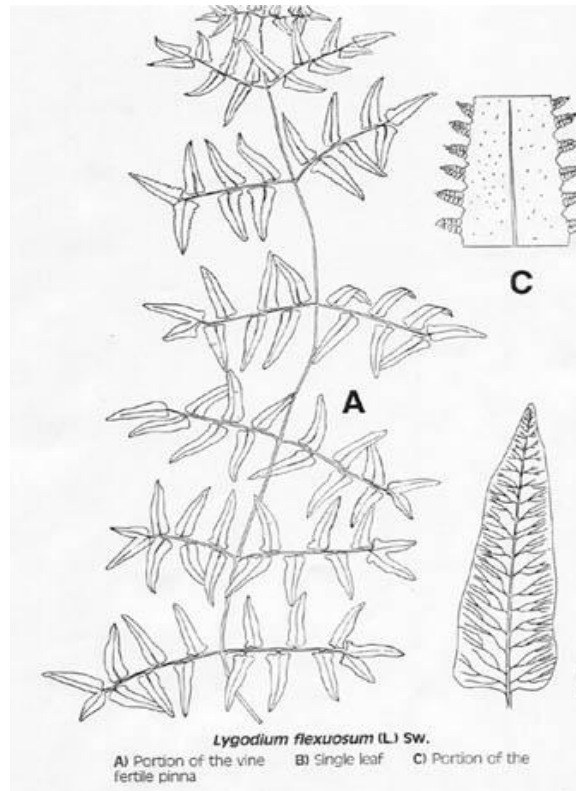
Ramondia flexuosa (L.) Mirb.

Lygodium pinnatifidum Hook, Bayer (1982) reports *L. pinnatifidum* as a synonym, but the Missouri Botanical Garden (Mobot) treats as a separate species.

Common Names: maidenhair creeper; ribu-ribu besar, ribu-ribu-gajah, darai paya, and akar sidin (Malaysia); bogen-kletterfarn (German)

Bayer Code: None provided

Description: Rhizomatous perennial fern, with climbing rachis up to 2.5 mm thick. Primary rachis branches not elongated. Secondary rachis-branches bearing alternate pinnately arranged leaflets, usually 3 or 4 (occasionally 5 or 6) on each side and a simple or forked terminal leaflet, the whole being 15–30 cm long. Basal leaflets often with large basal lobes, sometimes with two or three separate leaflets at the base. Largest leaflet 4–12 x 1–2.5 cm on hairy winged stalks 3–8 mm long, broadly rounded to cordate at the base and more-or-less distinctly jointed to the end of the stalk, narrowed gradually to the apex, edges of sterile leaflets finely toothed, texture thin but firm (Barnes and Chan, 1990).



Lygodium flexuosum
Barnes and Chan, 1990

Distribution:

China, India, Sri Lanka, Indochina, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Australia (GRIN, 2008)

Indonesia (Barnes and Chan, 1990)

India and Sri Lanka to southern China and through Malaysia to Australia and the Pacific. (Roder *et al.*, 1995)

Listed as “principal” weed in Malaysia; “present” in Philippines, Vietnam; and “in the flora” of Indonesia, but its weediness is unknown (Holm *et al.* 1979)



Lygodium flexuosum (L.) Sw.

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Biology and Ecology: *Lygodium flexuosum* is recorded by Holm *et al.* (1979) as a principal weed of Malaysia. It is widespread in eastern Asia, affecting rice (*e.g.*, in Laos), where Roder *et al.* (1995) report crop loss as well as plantation crops and natural lowland vegetation. It is a robust species, spreading by rhizomes as well as climbing and scrambling over vegetation. It has the potential to seriously impact tropical ecologies of the United States.

References:

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